



## Professor released after five years despite Israeli air attack on Hezbollah medical base

# American hostage freed in Lebanon

By ALI JASER IN BEIRUT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE American hostage Jesse Turner was freed last night after nearly five years of captivity in Beirut. His release came after Israel freed 15 Arabs yesterday morning as part of the global exchange being negotiated by the United Nations.

Mr Turner was handed to Syrian security forces and driven to Damascus, where he was met by American diplomats, following the traditional procedure established for hostage releases.

Mr Turner, 44, was one of two Americans kidnapped by the Shia group Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine in January, 1987. The group, which on Friday offered to allow him to spend an hour with his wife, announced on Sunday that either he or Alan Steen would be freed within 24 hours, after talks with the UN special envoy, Giamonico Picco.

The release of the computer science professor went ahead as scheduled in spite of Israeli air strikes on a village in south Lebanon yesterday that were

denounced by another kidnap group as obstructing the drive for a comprehensive hostage swap. No one was hurt in the raid on Jibchit, home of Sheikh Abdel-Karim Obeid, the ostensible of the three hundred or so Arabs being held by Israel. But Islamic Jihad, which holds Terry Waite and the Americans Terry Anderson and Tom Sutherland, issued a statement denouncing "these tyrannical Zionist practices". It called on the UN secretary-general, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, to intervene to stop what it described as an Israeli siege of villages in south Lebanon.

Israeli aircraft had flattened a Hezbollah medical base near Jibchit in revenge for the deaths of three Israeli soldiers in a bombing in south Lebanon on Sunday. Islamic Jihad described the strike as a savage attack on innocents and unarmed civilians.

The Israeli deputy foreign minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, insisted, however, that the attack and counter-attack in southern Lebanon had nothing to do with the hostage negotiations and pointed to Israel's release yesterday of 15 Arabs, 14 from Khiam prison in south Lebanon and one from inside Israel itself.

His release was the result of Israel receiving proof that the missing serviceman Yossi Fink was dead. Israel has demanded information on seven servicemen, of whom only one is thought to be alive, before freeing batches of Lebanese detained at Khiam. The Lebanese kidnappers have, in turn, linked the release of the Western hostages to the repatriation of the Israeli-held Arabs.

Yesterday, five of the freed Arabs were taken to Beirut, where they were met by a 300-strong demonstration organised by Hezbollah. One Hezbollah leader, Sheikh Naim Kassem, told the freed



Steps to freedom: a Lebanese woman watched by a militiaman as she steps down from a bus in Marjayoun after being released from Khiam prison

prisoners: "You were the ones who kept Israel in prison, not vice versa." He vowed to continue the armed struggle against Israel until it withdraws its army from the security zone in southern Lebanon.

The other ten Arabs, including two women, freed from Khiam went to their homes in the security zone. The 15th freed detainee, Ali Fawas, was driven from Israel to Lebanon in a Red Cross car. He had been detained for participat-

ing in an attack on Israel's surrogate militia, the Southern Lebanese Army, and last night he claimed that he had been subjected to torture by electric shock and had been beaten.

The release of the Arabs paved the way for Mr Turner's freedom last night. He had been held captive for 1,731 days since being seized by gunmen disguised as policemen. Early yesterday, his kidnappers issued a photograph of him and announced that it would free him "in compliance with the pledge and as an expression of readiness to continue the comprehensive agreement which is in process to release all the detainees and hostages".

The Syrian foreign minister, Farouq al-Shara, later confirmed: "We expect an American hostage, Jesse Turner, to be freed this evening."

For three years before he was captured with three other academics on January 24, 1987, Mr Turner taught mathematics and computer science at Beirut University College. He had earned a

bachelor's degree in psychology from Boise State University in 1970 and graduate degrees in philosophy and mathematics at the University of Idaho.

He was a professor at the University of Hawaii in 1981 and at the University of California the following year. He moved to Beirut in 1984 and converted to Islam in 1985.

Mr Turner, of Boise, Idaho, married a Lebanese secretary, Badr, in 1986 and their daughter was born five months after he was kidnapped. Since then, his wife and daughter, Joanne, have moved to live in the United Arab Emirates.

Even though he had not lived in America for years, Mr Turner was remembered with other hostages in his home state and yellow ribbons were tied round trees on each anniversary of his disappearance. Schoolchildren marked his 1,000th day of captivity in 1990 by folding 1,000 white paper cranes as a symbol of good luck.

Photograph, page 11  
Hatred in common, page 14

## Minister warns trust hospitals against charging

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM Waldegrave yesterday gave a warning to hospitals that they must not charge health service patients, as he mounted a spirited defence of the government's health reforms.

The day after he disclosed that tax concessions for private health insurance for the elderly might be ended, it emerged that the health secretary has instructed officials to investigate any allegations of charging, particularly by trust hospitals or those who have applied for trust status.

He has written to St Bartholomew's, the London teaching hospital, after allegations that it has requested money for providing infertility treatment to health service patients. Other cases are being looked at.

Mr Waldegrave, opening an ill-tempered Commons debate on the health service yesterday, underlined several times that it was illegal to charge health service patients. Challenged by a Labour MP he said: "I do not need to consult about the law of the land. NHS patients cannot be charged and that is the end of that."

After Mr Waldegrave's statement about charging, Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, told him: "We will not let you come back to this House after what you have said about these charges being illegal, without hearing whether after this debate you left this chamber and stopped those charges."

Labour MPs had tabled a Commons motion yesterday noting that five London doctors had condemned St Bartholomew's for privatising infertility treatment and "questioned both the morality and legality of requesting money for the treatment of NHS patients."

Mr Waldegrave's condemnation of charging was seen by MPs last night as another sign of the health secretary's determination to prevent any practices in the health service that would lend credence to

Labour's repeated charges of creeping privatisation. In the debate Mr Waldegrave rallied Tory MPs by accusing Labour of peddling a "scurrilous campaign of smears and scares" over the future of the health service.

In some of the most bitter front-bench exchanges over health, he said he aimed to nail, once and for all, the "falsehood about privatisation".

Of Labour leader Neil Kinnock's claim that the Tories would privatise the service, he said: "It was simple. It was straightforward. It was false."

Labour, he claimed, Continued on page 20, col 6

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## Poland toasts ale and hearty party

Voters are imbibing the heady green politics brewed by the Beer Lovers. Roger Boyes reports from Warsaw

After Poland's parliamentary elections on Sunday, the balance of power may well lie in the unsteady hands of the Beer Lovers' party, a maverick group that has just overtaken the former communists in the opinion polls.

The subtle political credo of the Beer Lovers is best expressed by their campaign anthem: "Drink one, two, three beers and you walk a little queer. But after vodka you don't walk at all, so pour some beer, so pour!" The party's president is Janusz Rewinski, a rotund, bearded comedian who is as surprised as anyone by the present turn of events.

In a country where the economics ministry estimates that a million people are drunk every day, he argues that it is senseless to prohibit alcohol. Instead Poles should be persuaded to drink beer and abandon vodka.

The party programme arises from the assumption that good beer is good for Poland and can only be brewed from pure water and organically grown grain. The party is lobbying for an environmental clean-up, with tax incentives for non-polluting companies and tax penalties on, for example, owners of "dirty" Trabant cars.

The polls show that the Beer Lovers, with 3 per cent, are ahead of the former communists, now known as the Social Democrats, and the Catholic Action party, which is trying to ban abortion and open the way for a more religious Poland. The Beer Lovers are also within a whisker of the Centre Alliance party, led by Jaroslaw Kaczynski, one of President Walesa's key advisers.

The Centre Alliance was furious yesterday at the idea that it could be edged out by the Beer Lovers. An alliance spokesman said success for the Beer Lovers would "bring discredit to Poland in world opinion and dis-

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### TODAY IN THE TIMES

#### LACY LOOK



Valentine's models were showing the lacy new lingerie look in Paris this season. Liz Smith reports on the long and the short of the designers' collections  
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#### BB'S BACK



"To be black and a blues musician, that's like being black twice." B.B. King, veteran of the one-night show, is on the road again  
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#### BOHEMIAN BLUES



Dr Johnson was never knowingly tired of London, but Janet Daley regrets the passing of the Bohemian life that once she led, and blames it on urban policies and rip-off merchants  
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## Pensions to rise by 4.1%

By RICHARD FORD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN EXTRA £240 million package for old and frail pensioners was announced yesterday by the government as part of a £3 billion uprating of social security benefits.

From April, pensions and child benefit will rise by 4.1 per cent, increasing the basic retirement pension for a single person by £2.15 a week and by £3.45 for a couple. Child benefit for the eldest child will increase by 40p to £9.65p a week and for other children by 30p to £7.80p.

Disabled pensioners and the over-80s will benefit most. The additional funds make an overall increase of £5.10p a week for a single person and £7.70p a week for a couple. Old people living in private residential care are to receive an additional £15 a week.

Full details, page 4  
Leading article, page 15

## French farmers rampage

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS AND TOM WALKER IN LUXEMBOURG

FRENCH farmers manned pre-dawn roadblocks to halt foreign lorries in Brittany, yesterday, and seized imported British lamb and German meat in Toulouse, in a new wave of protests.

Cargoes of imported meat and butter were unloaded from two British lorries and three others, carrying imported produce between Nantes and Rennes, and then set on fire. In the southwestern city of Toulouse, protesting farmers snatched crates of meat to hand out free to shoppers in the city centre.

In Montauban, in the same region, dozens of angry farmers gathered outside the police station demanding the release of seven trade union leaders detained after violent protests last Friday in which Jean-Michel Baylet, the tourism minister, had been pelted with fruit and vegetables.

French farmers are worried that European Community food mountains and competition from Eastern Europe are cutting prices and destroying their livelihood. Edith

Cresson, the French prime minister, has warned her ministers not to travel in the French countryside without permission from local authorities. Angered by falling prices, French farmers have attacked administrative and tax offices, and government officials are now considered fair game in a

battle to preserve the rural way of life. The latest attacks on vehicles took place as EC farm ministers gathered in Luxembourg, where John Gummer, the agriculture minister, denounced the "mob tactics" of the French farmers. Although he told his EC colleagues that he welcomed the French government's apparent new support for EC farm reform, he said it should restore order in the countryside at once. "I am insistent that the EC cannot work if there is no common standard of law and order," he said.

Mr Gummer vowed that the lawlessness of the farmers in Brittany would not budge Britain into backing a protectionist reform of the common agricultural policy. "I don't think it is acceptable that we should be blackmailed, by mob rule, into taking different views," he said.

In the meantime, Louis Mermaz, the French agriculture minister, has pledged  
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Talks collapsing, page 10



## Highlanders carry the battle to the hustings

By KERRY GILL

CAMPAIGNERS intent on saving the Gordon Highlanders from amalgamation with the Queen's Own Highlanders, as part of the government's defence review, are expected to field their own candidate in next month's Kinross and Deeside by-election, it was disclosed last night.

The plan is seen primarily as a way of embarrassing Tom King, the defence secretary, who announced his army cutback proposals in the summer, but it will also have the effect of making the future of the Gordons one of the main campaign issues.

The constituency is the regiment's main recruiting ground and already all the major candidates have tried to

capture the popular vote by saying they are against the amalgamation. Even Marcus Humphrey, for the Conservatives, has gone against the government line by supporting the Gordons' case for survival as a separate regiment.

Last night Douglas Robson, secretary of Save the Gordon Highlanders, said: "We must fight against what we consider is a most irresponsible decision," but he said they would not be fighting against the other parties but to change the government's mind.

A volunteer has offered to stand, although the name will not be released until shortly before nominations close on Friday. Mr Robson said that over

the past six weeks 240,000 people of all political parties had signed a petition calling for the government to change its mind.

While the Tories, Labour, Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party back the campaign to varying degrees, the appearance of a Save the Gordons candidate could split the vote in what is widely expected to be a close finish. Nicol Stephen, the Liberal Democrat, is being tipped cautiously as the favourite: in the 1987 general election he came within 2,063 votes of the late Alick Buchanan-Smith, who held the seat for the Conservatives until he died on August 29.

Mr Humphrey, a Deeside land-

owner who yesterday announced he had become a grandfather for the first time, appears to have adopted Mr Buchanan-Smith's reputation as an old-style, consensus Tory. A party spokesman said last night that he was the only candidate who stood a chance of persuading the government to think again. The campaigners, he said, knew the Tories were the only party who stood for strong defence.

"Their fight is with the opposition parties who are all pledged to drastically reduce defence expenditure. What the campaigners should be asking is how the Liberal Democrat candidate squares his party's policy with his pledge to keep the Gordon Highlanders," he said.

## THE FAMOUS GROUSE FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

PRESENTS

## Rugby

CURIOUS FACT NO 3



In the 1985 All England Schools 200 yards low hurdles, a certain A. Pascoe came a breathless second to a fresh-faced, record-breaking Welsh lad, Alan, who went on to gold success in European and Commonwealth competitions. Must be eternally grateful that the winner, one Gareth Edwards, decided to take his silver-heels into the world of rugby, instead









## Surgery patients 'heard doctor being accused of brushing up against clinic staff'

## Woman GP tried to ruin partner with sex slur, jury told

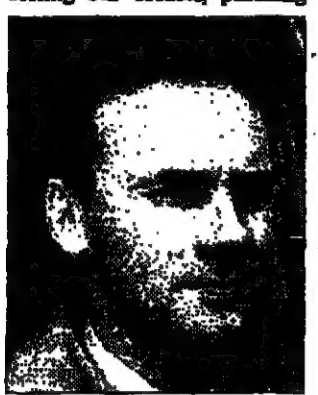
By ROBIN YOUNG

A DOCTOR being sued for slander in the High Court for alleging that her former partner had sexually harassed her had advertised in the *British Medical Journal*. "Princess GP seeks to ruin partner with sex slur, jury told", a jury was told yesterday.

Dr Malcolm Smith, who has brought the action against Dr Alan Houston, said that she had tried to destroy his career by labelling him a groper.

Dr Smith, aged 35, is claiming damages over Dr Houston's accusations that he harassed her and members of staff by feeling their breasts, pinching their bottoms and brushing up against them.

Dr Smith said that he had apologised to patients at his surgery after a scene in which, he claimed, Dr Houston had said in front of them: "We have all had enough of you feeling our breasts, pinching our bottoms and brushing up against us."



Smith: patients heard accusation of groping

our bumps and brushing up against us. Just because you are a single man, you think you can practise on us."

Dr Smith said that if the allegations had been true, he would have been struck off and his medical practice destroyed. He denied that he had ever brushed against Dr Houston's bottom and breasts.

Jonathan Crystal, counsel for Dr Smith, had earlier told the jury that Dr Houston, aged 47, had never apologised for her remarks, which had upset Dr Smith very much.

Mr Crystal told a jury of

seven women and five men that the doctors had been partners but, at the time of the alleged slander, were sharing the surgery and running separate practices. Dr Houston had been trying to have Dr Smith removed from the premises and had made complaints about him to the local family practitioner committee.

Dr Houston had said in one letter that Dr Smith's attitudes and attacks on her staff had made the atmosphere at the surgery "explosive".

Mr Crystal said that at the beginning of October 1989 many of Dr Smith's medical records had been stolen in a break-in at the clinic. Later that morning, he said, Dr Houston had told Dr Smith in front of staff and patients: "We have all had enough of your groping us, pinching our bottoms, feeling our breasts and brushing up against us as we walk past. Just because you are a single man you think you can get away with it."

Dr Smith had said that he could not believe what he was hearing, and that it was the most vulgar thing he had ever heard.

Dr Smith claims additional damages over an incident three weeks later when he asked Dr Houston not to move a computer. Mr Crystal said that Dr Houston's response was to behave in an "extraordinary manner", cupping her breasts and three times shouting: "Don't touch my body." Mr Crystal said that Dr Smith had been 6ft 10in from her at the time.

Dr Smith had also had to endure an investigation by the Deputy Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, who subsequently said that the allegations made against him had been "groundless, baseless and without justification".

Mr Crystal suggested that the key to Dr Houston's character lay in three advertisements she had placed in the *British Medical Journal* when seeking a partner for her practice. In one, in 1984, she had described herself as "volatile". Four years later she had called

herself "abrasive" and said that she required "a non-upright partner with the capacity for self-mockery" to bring new skills to her practice.

In November 1988 she had placed an advertisement describing herself as a "Princess GP seeking to ruin partner with sex slur, jury told". She also referred to her "hypo-maniac staff".

Mr Crystal said that the jury might think that Dr Houston had tried to exploit her femininity in the advertisement. He said: "Here we have a woman, fixated in some way, who is not only prepared to regard herself as volatile and abrasive but prepared to resort to that sort of imaginative advert to further her own ends."

If Dr Smith had been guilty of the conduct alleged, it would have had "untold and far-reaching" consequences, Mr Crystal said.

"If he were someone who harassed people, groped women, kept on brushing up against people for thrill or enjoyment, he is hardly suitable to be a GP, he is not somebody the General Medical Council would regard as a fit and proper person."

Dr Smith had brought the case to vindicate his name and to seek compensation for the distress he had been caused.

The case continues today.



Houston: accused by her former partner at her surgery of a sex slander against him

## Apple Day strikes at core of limited choice

By JOHN YOUNG

THE man in the fruit and vegetable stall at the back of the Royal Opera House did not know that yesterday was Apple Day, but was pleased to be told. Elsewhere in Covent Garden visitors were buying everything from clothes to cheeses but not, it seemed, many apples.

Of course, it is 17 years since the garden ceased to be the national headquarters of green-grocery, and the area has long been transformed. But no apples in Covent Garden?

Not even on Apple Day? Not quite. At Smith's restaurant some 40 varieties were on display, bearing such splendid names as Lord Lambourne, Belle de Boshop, Cornish Aromatic, Beauty of Kent, Ribston Pippin and Reverend W. Wilkes. The day before the restaurant had celebrated with a lunch including apple soup, apple salad with fennel, roast pork with apple source, apple strudel and apple pie.

What the public wants, the marketing men say, is a strictly limited range of familiar varieties, like Coxes and

Golden Delicious, which can be stored and made available year round and which look and taste the same whenever and wherever you buy them. Come to think of it, they said much the same about beer a few years ago.

The campaign for real apples is led by a tiny environmental group, Common Ground, whose offices happen to be in Covent Garden. It is concerned about not only restricted consumer choice but the wholesale destruction of ancient orchards, once among the glories

of the English countryside. Devon alone, according to Sue Clifford, of Common Ground, has lost 90 per cent of its orchards since 1965. Of an astonishing 6,000 recorded varieties in Britain, only nine are now grown commercially, and only 40 per cent of the apples we eat are home-grown.

Common Ground is promoting "community orchards", and has received some support from farmers, local authorities and wildlife trusts. The group claims to have persuaded Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's and Safeway

to stock a number of unusual varieties on a trial basis. It has also produced a recipe book (*The Apple Source Book*, 45 Shelton Street, London WC2H 9HU, £4.95).

At least our legislators agreed to mark Apple Day by serving Royal Cider in the Commons dining room, and Colin Shepherd, Conservative MP for Hereford and chairman of the catering sub-committee, vowed that Parliament would do its bit to promote the apple.

Diary, page 14

## Keyboard staff at BT 'reduced to tears of pain'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SIX-YEAR battle came to court yesterday as 11 employees sued BT for damages for injuries they suffered due to working on keyboards.

In the case being heard at the Mayor and City of London Court, the women from two branches, Swindon and Cardiff, claimed they suffered a form of repetitive strain injury (RSI) when employed as data processing officers between 1979 and 1984. RSI is also described as a work-related upper-limb disorder.

Colin MacKay, QC, counsel for the women, said: "What these ladies say is that they contracted this condition from working at keyboards at continuous high speed, under pressure in physical conditions which were unsatisfactory."

He went on to explain that RSI was "not a negligible condition". He said: "Some ladies talked about being reduced to tears with the pain, one wears a splint and others wore bandages to work. All have been rendered unfit for keyboard work." The women also found they were affected in their daily household tasks.

The key to the issue was whether "BT was negligent or in breach of its statutory duty as an employer in bringing these conditions about."

According to Mr MacKay the women all worked under pressure and were graded according to their speed. A standard grade operator had to be able to work for a prolonged period at a rate of

10,000 key strokes an hour (KDH), a grade two worker had to reach 11,500 and the top grade 13,000.

That, Mr MacKay said, was equivalent to the finger striking 3.6 times per second. "Some of these ladies worked with one finger only. They were not trained typists," Mr MacKay said.

He said that an additional pressure on the women was that the rate of work was closely monitored not by humans but by the machine itself. "The computer was capable of letting management know how many KDHs an operator achieved each day."

Mr MacKay said BT had a responsibility to inform and educate staff about the risks and minimise them by paying close attention to the working conditions. Staff should have been warned to report any symptoms as soon as they appeared.

"What is more is they should tell them why they should report the first signs, namely, because if they do not do so the condition may become chronic and serious, as it has done with some of the ladies," he said. The women were using chairs that could not be adjusted and were using drawers as desks and bathroom scales as footrests.

Describing BT as "hi-tech", Mr MacKay said: "They should have led the way in promoting awareness of the problem and the answers to it, and they failed."

The women claiming damages are: Denise Lodge, Sheila Walker, Gillian Peppin, Eileen Towler, all from Swindon; Angela McSherry, Diane Davies, Deborah Gazzard, Sian Eddy, Rachael Toffitt, Kim Dowling and Jean Kenyon, all from Cardiff.

Mrs McSherry described the pain she experienced: "I used to get to the stage where I would think 'If I don't stop keying, I'm going to scream and scream and scream.' She said the monitoring system built into the machine caused many people worry."

She said that she still experienced problems cleaning her home, washing and peeling vegetables and carrying shopping.

The case was adjourned until today.

## BR sweeps aside leaf problem

By MICHAEL DYNES

BRITISH Rail engineers are anxiously awaiting the arrival of autumn's falling leaves so that they can begin trials of their latest acquisition, a £260,000 experimental track-scrubbing train.

The train, equipped with 16 rotating brushes at track level, is designed to remove rolling leaves that damage rolling stock and seriously disrupt rail services. It will go into service at the end of this month between Basingstoke and Salisbury.

Network SouthEast is confident that the track scrubber, developed from a Swedish prototype, will prove successful and that more track scrubbing trains will be introduced next year.

Fallen leaves crushed by trains form a thick mush that reduces grip on the tracks. Wheels spin and the train is unable to accelerate, causing expensive damage.

In the Seventies, BR introduced a fleet of trains that deposit sand-impregnated paste. Used on more than 500 miles of track, the trains reduced annual wheel-set repairs from 3,200 to 1,400. The scrubbing trains are expected to further reduce costs and delays.

Environmentally acceptable weed killers are to be used to control trackside vegetation, Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, said yesterday.

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## Suspect evidence three are cleared

By CRAIG SETON

THREE men who were convicted and imprisoned on suspect evidence given by a "supergroup" to the former West Midlands serious crime squad were cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, said there was "reasonable doubt" over the safety of the convictions of the three because of suspicions that were rife at the time about the activities of the squad. The disappearance and later reappearance of files and exhibits relating to two separate trials involving the Birmingham men had raised grave doubts about the bona fides of the squad, the court was told.

The court quashed as unsafe and unsatisfactory the conviction of Daniel Lynch, aged 36, who was serving a ten-year sentence for robbery, firearms possession and burglary. The court also cleared Ronald Gall, aged 40, and his brother



Lynch: conviction unsafe and unsatisfactory

Gerald, aged 29, who were jailed in August 1989 for their alleged role in the contract shooting of a nightclub doorman.

Ronald Gall, who had been sentenced to two years, left prison last year. His brother, imprisoned for three years, was not freed yesterday because he remained in custody in connection with another alleged offence.

The separate appeals of the three men were heard together by the court because they had been implicated by Paul Jarvis, a police informer, in evidence he gave to the squad. The quashing of the convictions brings to eight the number of men the Court of Appeal has cleared over allegations that evidence from the squad had been fabricated or was otherwise unreliable.

An estimated 15 more appeals are pending. The squad was disbanded in 1989. Its affairs are still under investigation by a team from West Yorkshire police.

Lord Lane, sitting with Mr Justice Roch and Mr Justice Auld, said the arrests of the three came after confessions to the squad by Paul Jarvis to more than 1,000 offences. Jarvis had claimed he had been contracted by the Gall brothers for the shooting of John Griffin, a nightclub doorman, and had also implicated one of the brothers in a burglary. Lord Lane said Jarvis could not have committed the burglary because he was in custody at the time.

## Man freed after rape of wife

By RICHARD DUCE

A MAN who raped his wife believing that "one moment of intimacy" could save their failing marriage was allowed to go free yesterday. He is one of the first men to be prosecuted for rape while still living with his wife.

Mr Justice Schiemann said the husband's plea of guilty was one of the "wholly exceptional circumstances" that had allowed him to impose a two-year suspended jail sentence. Manchester crown court was told that at the time of the attack, the man, aged 35, still shared the marital bed with his wife of 12 years although they had not had sex for several months because their relationship had deteriorated.

Peter Cadwallader, for the prosecution, said that on the day of the attack the husband was angry and aggressive because of the sleeping arrangement and raped his wife after dragging her upstairs and threatening to kill her. Both had wept after the attack and she later reported her husband to police.

The judge said the rape was "a misplaced attempt to get her to love you". Andrew Nuttall, defending, said the husband had done everything he could to try to save his marriage. "He thought if there could be a moment of intimacy there might be a chance to talk it over and he did not really realise that what he was doing was wrong."

## Nazi yacht founders in economic straits

By JOHN SHAW

A YACHT commissioned by Hitler as a once-proud symbol of the Third Reich is now down-at-heel and goes on sale this week for £5,000.

More than 50 years after she was built, the yacht has become a victim of a depression in the expensive restoration market for classic boats.

Merlin, originally named Wal, has handsome lines and was one of six 55ft yachts built on Hitler's orders in 1939 with the aim of winning the prized

Baltic Cup trophy to boost German marine prestige. That ambition took a back seat when Hitler invaded Poland and the yachts were taken over by the German High Commission. Wal found her way into the hands of Hermann Goering, who sailed her off the Dutch coast.

She is known to have been used for "rest and relaxation" by senior Luftwaffe officers, but little else is known of her wartime history.

The vessel was taken to England by the Royal Navy in

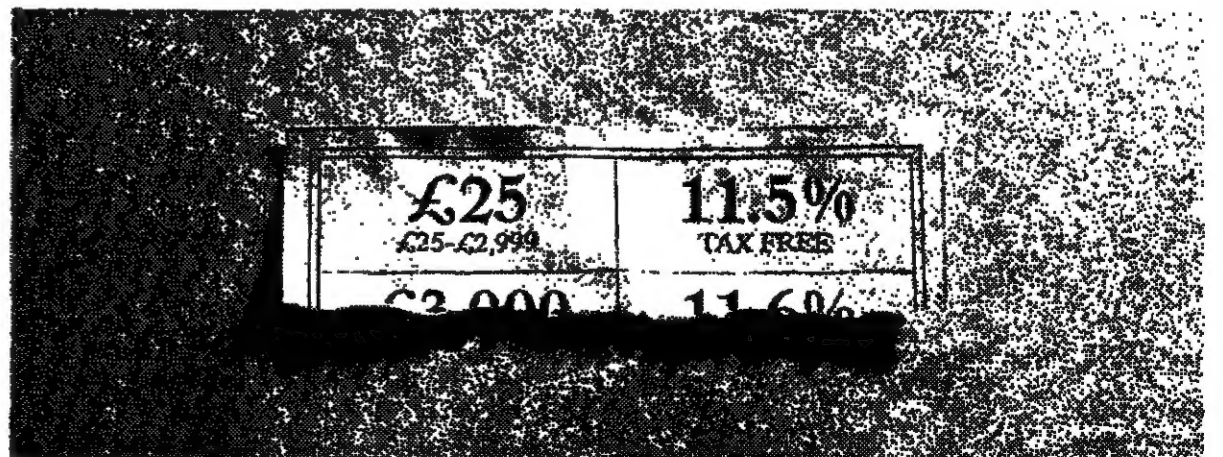
1946 as part of war reparations. She was used as a training vessel, making at least one transatlantic crossing, and was refitted at Portsmouth dockyard before being reallocated to a fleet airbase at Lee-on-the-Solent in Hampshire.

Eventually, maintenance costs became too high and she was sold and renamed Merlin. After an initial attempt at Mediterranean chartering she changed hands several times before coming to rest in a field at Dereham, Norfolk. One

rescue plan was thwarted by lack of funds after a move to a boathouse in Maldon, Essex, in 1989, and earlier this year the vessel passed to yet another owner, Michael Beringer, a yachtsman who runs a woodworking business near London Bridge.

He said: "The classic boat market was looking pretty good when I bought her, but now it has collapsed and I am having to sell. She is a lovely boat but I don't think I can afford to take a long-term view."

## Ridiculously high tax-free interest? On ridiculously low sums of money? Don't be ridiculous.



Introducing a TESSA with tiered rates of interest.

The introduction of TESSA (the five year tax free savings scheme) was good news for anyone fed up with paying tax on their savings. But at Nationwide, we've now made TESSA even more attractive. Because you can start receiving your interest tax free for only £25. Our TESSA also allows you to invest up to £3,000 in the first year and up to £1,800 in each of the following four years, provided your total investment doesn't exceed £9,000. And the rates of interest we pay on all the five tiers are enough to bring any tax man out in a cold sweat. They range from 11.50% tax free right up to 11.90% tax free. What's more, we pay you all your interest annually, which you can leave in your TESSA or receive 75% of it at the end of each year. So call into your nearest branch of Nationwide or consult your financial adviser. After all, opening any other TESSA is quite ridiculous.

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TS10



## Villagers form a 'republic' in gypsy camp protest

RESIDENTS of Cleeve Prior, Hereford and Worcester, will declare their community an independent republic today in a publicity stunt designed to signal their opposition to the growth of gypsy camps close to the boundary of the village.

Villagers intend to erect border posts in the main street and issue passports with visas to visitors, while the community stores will offer "duty-free" goods at 10 per cent off the usual price. Residents are to don medieval costume for a ceremony in which a town crier is to declare Cleeve Prior an independent republic.

The carnival atmosphere that is expected is intended to convey a serious message. Villagers say that over years four gypsy camps have been created without planning permission on private land just outside the village, near Evesham.

Hereford and Worcester county council intends to create another permanent camp for up to 20 travellers' caravans on the site to fulfil its obligations under the Gypsy Caravan Sites Act 1968. The residents of Cleeve Prior, which has a population of 400, say the proposed new development

Residents of Cleeve Prior are staging a mock declaration of independence to convey a serious message, Craig Seton reports

will bring to about 100 the number of gypsies living on the edge of the village.

They have criticised Wychavon district council for failing to enforce planning regulations against the camps and say that the county council's proposed plan will increase the number of gypsy families attracted to the area by casual work in market gardens in the Vale of Evesham.

Villagers have established a Cleeve Prior Environmental Protection Group to fight the county's plans. They insist that they are not anti-gypsy, but concerned that the community is being asked to take more than its fair share of travelling families.

Peter Neale, vice-chairman of the group, who runs an electric company, said yesterday said an aerial survey organised by the village had shown more than 30 caravans occupying the

unauthorised sites near by. He added: "We have tried all the legal channels to get the district council to enforce planning regulations and stop these developments, but without success. Now we feel we have to do something else to make our point."

Mr Neale said that children from the gypsy sites attended the local school. He added: "We have started to be integrated with the gypsy families, but there is no way a village of this size can cope with more. We know there is government provision for gypsy camps, but the numbers should be limited." Phil Nutt, who runs a computer business, added: "The whole argument is about numbers. We are not against gypsies and we have worked very hard to make that clear."

Hereford and Worcester county council said last night that it had an obligation under the 1968 act to identify and acquire sites for local authority gypsy camps. It said that once a site had been established, the district authority would be able to prove that provision for gypsies had been made and could take action against unauthorised sites.

Leading article, page 15



Keep out: Mr Neale and Tony Callaghan placing stocks on the village green

## Newton finds £240m extra in benefits for the needy

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday announced an increase in payments to the very elderly, disabled and most vulnerable from next April at a cost of £240 million, in addition to the normal annual uprating of benefits.

The basic retirement pension will increase by £2.15 a week for a single person and by £3.45 for a couple. Child benefit for the eldest child will increase by 40p to £9.65 a week and the rate for other children by 30p to £7.80.

Tony Newton, the social security secretary, pleased Conservative MPs by providing additional funds for a number of the most needy groups, including pensioners over 80, the disabled and elderly people living in residential care.

He told MPs in the Commons: "We are doing more for those who are older and least well-off, more for families with children and more for disabled people. Those are our priorities and I believe they will be widely endorsed."

The normal annual uprating of benefits will cost more than £3 billion. The mainstream benefits rise next April in line with movements in the retail price index up to September, when inflation measured 4.1 per cent.

Other income related benefits, including income support, housing benefit and community charge benefit, increase by 7 per cent. Weekly income support for a single person over 25 will increase from £39.65 to £42.45 and for a couple with two children aged 10 and 12 from £104.55 to £111.85.

Mr Newton told MPs that income support premium for

disabled pensioners and those over 80 was to rise by an extra £1 a week for a single pensioner and £1.50 for a couple at a cost of £60 million. The additional funds make an overall increase of £5.10 a week for a single person and £7.70 a week for a couple.

Mr Newton also gave extra financial assistance to elderly people living in private residential care to help to bridge the gap between the homes' charges and the amount paid by the state. Income support limits for those in the homes is to rise by £15 a week and for the very dependent elderly and mentally handicapped by £20 a week.

Although Mr Newton's help for those in residential care was widely welcomed, a number of Tory MPs demanded an additional premium to help those in homes in southern England, where costs are higher.

Three hundred thousand people are to benefit for the first time by the introduction of two new tiers of the disability living allowance, including 10,000 severely mentally handicapped people with serious behavioural difficulties. The allowance will be £11.55 a week.

Mr Newton also announced that another £1 million would be provided for the hospice movement and an extra £67 million for the social fund.

Tory MPs welcomed the package, but Labour's shadow social security secretary said: "The prime minister is not producing a classless society, but a couldn't-care-less society. This statement today will confirm our status as the poverty capital of Europe."

Leading article, page 15

	Old rates (£)	New rates (£)
Child benefit		
Eldest eligible child	9.25	9.65
Each subsequent child	7.50	7.80
Family credit		
Adult credit	38.30	41.00
Child credit		
Under 11 years	8.70	10.40
11-15 years	16.10	17.25
16-17 years	20.05	21.45
18 years	27.95	29.80
Income support		
Residential care homes:		
Old age	160.00	175.00
Very dependent elderly	185.00	205.00
Mental handicap	195.00	215.00
Maternity allowance	40.80	42.25
One parent benefit	5.60	5.85
Retirement pension		
Basic	52.00	54.15
Married couple	83.25	86.70
Unemployment benefit		
Over pension age	52.00	54.15
Under pension age	41.40	43.10

## A time for silence as Aberfan grieves

By TIM JONES

THE simple service to mark the terrible tragedy of Aberfan was over before the early morning mist cleared from the valley floor.

At precisely 9.15, the time 25 years ago when the huge tip crashed down to kill their children, a small group of villagers gathered at the special place in the cemetery to shed their tears and remember.

The ranks of arched white Italian marble headstones that commemorate where most of the 116 children are buried were covered with flowers, their fragrance making the cold morning air sweet. The late October sun was shining and the whole valley was peaceful.

As they stood near the black marble cross which has on it the names of the children and the 28 adults who died, the Rev June Vaughan, congregational minister of Bethania chapel, read a passage from Ecclesiastes 2 in *The Good News Bible*. "Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up, the time for killing and the time for healing, the time for silence and the time for talk."

The villagers did not want to talk yesterday and their tears acted as a barrier to any approach. From one headstone, a photograph of Paul Davies smiles out across the valley. The inscription says simply: "And for a little while we

had him all to ourselves." Most of the surviving bereaved parents stayed away from the service, preferring to wait until the reporters had gone so they could express their grief in private.

For them, every day is an anniversary. The catastrophe on that day was so terrible they can never forget or properly heal.

As a young reporter, I saw at first hand their courage and witnessed their terrible rage. I marvelled also at their sense of community and in the way they shared their sorrow. They didn't have much material wealth then and have less now because the pit that gave them work has gone.

Indirectly, it was that which killed their children so they do not mourn its passing. Yesterday, a call was made for British Coal to pay £1.5 million for a new primary school for Aberfan to replace the building in which local children have been taught since Pantglas junior school was destroyed.

British Coal has already offered to donate the land, on the site of the old Merthyr Vale colliery, but Mid Glamorgan county councillors say that is not enough. Trevor Richards, chairman of the education buildings committee, said: "Aberfan has paid dearly for its coal industry. It was the fault of the National Coal Board that this tip slid onto the school and they deprived the village of a generation of children. They owe the community a tremendous debt."

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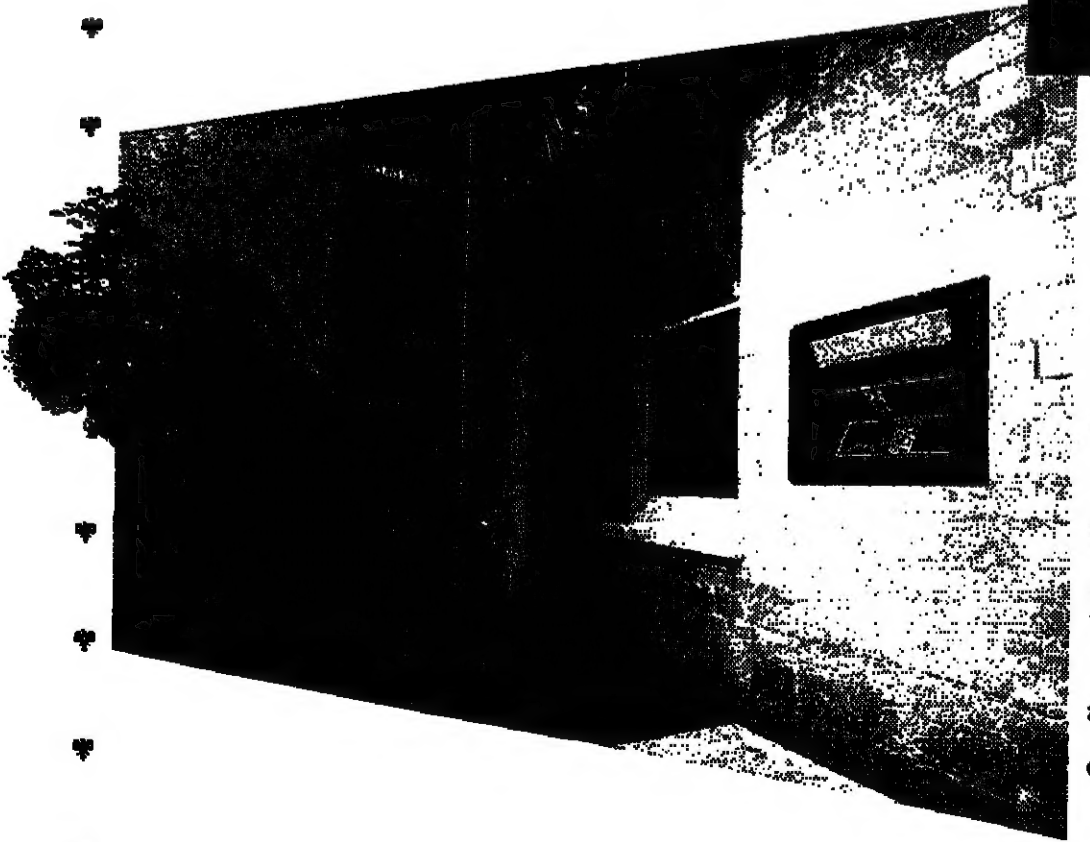
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## Minis

The Minister of State for the Home Office, Lord Williams of Glastonbury, said yesterday that the government was considering a new system of licensing for the sale of alcohol in public houses. He said that the government was looking at a system of licensing that would allow public houses to sell alcohol to non-residents of the area. He said that the government was also looking at a system of licensing that would allow public houses to sell alcohol to non-residents of the area. He said that the government was also looking at a system of licensing that would allow public houses to sell alcohol to non-residents of the area.

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## Waldegrave onslaught on Labour's 'campaign of smears'

## Minister sets out to 'nail falsehoods'

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE government went on to the attack over the national health service last night, accusing the Labour party of "a truly scurrilous campaign of smears and scares".

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, opening a set piece debate in the Commons, said that he wanted to nail the falsehood about privatisation. "There has been and will be no fundamental shift away from a service financed overwhelmingly from taxation", he said.

Mr Waldegrave said that the government had staged the debate to show three things: □ to nail the falsehood that the Tories intended to privatise health care in Britain and that NHS trusts were leaving the health service; □ to dissect the increasingly desperate and contradictory shifts of line made by Labour over the past few weeks as they had been forced to retreat from allegations they knew to be false; and

□ to demonstrate that Labour had no serious policy for the management of the health service; no position that stood up on money for health; and "that it is our domination of the real agenda which has forced them to resort to a truly scurrilous campaign of smears and scares".

He wanted to nail "once and for all" the falsehood about privatisation that had begun with mendacious leaflets at the Marmouth by-election claiming that the local trust hospital was opting out of the NHS.

Labour had put its allegation in a simple, straightforward and false way when Neil Kinnock at the Labour party conference had said: "The Tories will privatise the health service".

Since then, Mr Waldegrave said, "we get six redefinitions a day, we get backing and filling, we get wriggling and finally we get retreat".

"We all know how Labour have sought in the last few days to backtrack. We have privatisation replaced by creeping privatisation; we have creeping privatisation replaced by 'commercialisation'. We have had falsehoods replaced by creeping falsehoods."

He mocked the allegation that having charges for some items meant privatisation while acknowledging that the government had brought in charges for eye tests and dental checks.

He said that Aneurin Bevan, founder of the NHS, must have been the first privatiser since he had passed legislation for prescription charges and his government had introduced charges for teeth and spectacles. Mr Waldegrave added: "There have always been some charges for some services in the NHS, under Labour and under the Conservatives".

He said: "There has been and will be no fundamental shift away from a service financed overwhelmingly from taxation. If charging is to be the definition of privatisation, Labour invented it. Labour are condemning themselves out of their own mouths."

He derided different definitions of "privatisation". One, he said, amounted to high waiting lists. "If that is so, then Labour are princes of privatisation. There has never been a Labour government which did not leave waiting lists higher than it found them."

Responding to claims that the Tories were driving people into the private sector, he said that the largest percentage rise in private insurance had been in 1979 - a 28 per cent increase.

He added: "No-one can doubt what caused that: it was Coshie pickets controlling access to the cancer wards; it was

THE NHS

total collapse and crisis in the service; it was Labour's running of the health service which was the best recruiter for private health care there has ever been.

"Big falsehoods, little falsehoods, creeping smears or smears that bellow... The last two weeks have nailed them all. Labour took their campaign a smear too far and they know it. It was politics of hit and run." He said: "The reason that Labour went off down this side track of smears and scares was because of the drubbing they were receiving at the hands of the experts on their policies."

Seldom had there been such consensus among health experts. Labour's positive policy on health had been the object of almost universal derision.

Mr Waldegrave said that eight days ago Mr Cook had gone back on his policy on

## Motion and retort

The government motion being debated yesterday was couched in unusually robust language. It condemned Labour for intellectual bankruptcy and accused the Opposition of being "reduced to peddling smears and scares which lower morale among NHS staff and cause wholly unnecessary fear amongst patients".

A Labour amendment condemned the government's record and rejected the "relentless privatisation" of health services. A Liberal Democrat amendment regretted that the real needs of the NHS had been ignored by both main parties in an effort to distract attention by resorting to "tit-for-tat smears".

Walden said he spent last Sunday going backwards on the Dimpleby programme. "There was the truly comical spectacle of him trying to make sense either to himself or to Mr Dimpleby of his flexi-budgets."

More fundamental was the Labour's shifting on the spending of money. Mr Cook could not define what he meant by underfunding, whatever that might be, over the lifetime of a parliament. "It was a truly magnificent piece of equivocation for which he is becoming increasingly known." In January, Labour made a firm commitment to restore underfunding of the past decade. That became later that Labour "very much hoped" to restore and finally "we will seek."

Neil Kinnock had made quite different pledges involving £3 billion to £4 billion. Mr Cook referred to the promises as "interesting contributions", "persuasive", "very serious figures". As *The Times* had said in a leading article, restoration of underfunding was designed to permit everybody, from consultants to porters, to think Santa Claus was round the corner and remained, as ever, a gigantic soft touch.

Not only had Labour failed to substantiate the half promises on resources, on a range of

issues it had made unequivocal promises to reverse savings made by the government, the benefits of which had been ploughed back into patient care.

Labour was making promises for the reasons set out by Barbara Castle in her diary when she said they were essential political sweeteners for the unions. "That is what generates their apology for a policy now", he said.

He added: "At a time when other countries are seeking to rein back spending on health, we have increased our share of spending by a full percentage point of a bigger national product since 1979. It is fear of these facts and the void of their own policy which have led Labour to smear and mislead."

Mr Cook knew the privatisation smear to be false. Let him say that now. He should also say what his plans were for the management of the health service and how much he would spend. He had had 12 years. He might at least answer those questions.

The shiftness of Labour policy contrasted with that of the government. He repeated the Conservative party conference commitment of the prime minister that there would be no charges for hospital treatment or visits to the doctor and no privatisation of health care.

Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, rose to loud cheers from the Labour benches and was subjected to numerous interruptions and shouts from the Conservative side.

He said that the 900,000 people on waiting lists and the 300,000 people who had had their operations cancelled in the past year would regard Mr Waldegrave's speech as wholly irrelevant.

Mr Waldegrave had accused him of retreating from previous statements. "I cannot hope to rival the speed he moved on tax relief since only yesterday", he said. Mr Waldegrave admitted that the scheme did not work very well. All they needed know was a letter from Margaret Thatcher saying that she was responsible and mystified that it was such a flop.

The scheme was not just not working very well, it was not working at all. It had cost £150 million, money that would have been better spent on geriatric wards that the government was closing. It was a daft scheme and it came from the same review which led to the dogmatic changes in the health service. It was the first proposal in the white paper to be implemented and the first to be abandoned.

He attacked the government for continuing with its risky policy of trust status hospitals without having an enquiry, although it had set up a committee of enquiry in London.

Phillip Oppenheim, Conservative MP for Amber Valley, interrupted to ask Mr Cook to say by how much he thought the health service was underfunded and if it would be a priority of a future Labour government to redress that underfunding.

Mr Cook replied: "Yes, it



Waldegrave: there have always been charges for some health services

will be a priority." Pressed by Mr Waldegrave on the point, he said Labour would fully fund any wage award in a way not done since 1980. Second, when making a budget for the health service, Labour would take into account the growing number of elderly people. They were the people who had created the service and now they found, cruelly, that they could not get into it when they needed it.

"In the first year we will start on tackling underfunding and we will continue to do so year on year."

Labour would improve the health service next time as they had last time. The last Labour government had provided more extra nurses and doctors in five years than "this lot" had done in more than ten years. In every year Labour had increased real resources by twice as much as the Conservatives had.

Conservative protests grew louder as Mr Cook quoted cases to demonstrate his case that the NHS was underfunded and he mentioned an ambulance service using a telephone answering machine to deal with a 999 call for a heart attack.

Labour would rebuild the NHS and bring back into local health services those hospitals that had gone it alone as trusts, but into authorities that represented not only the secretary of state of the day but the local communities. "We will set each of them a

performance agreement which will tackle the variation of performance that Conservatives have identified, but never tackled."

They would apply pressure and incentives to improve the performance of authorities operating in the public service while the Conservatives offered only the risk of "downsizing" and closure.

Conservatives had imposed on the health service a wrong agenda with wrong priorities. They had perfectly demonstrated that last year when they discovered that they could not afford the changes to the health service and to community care and chose to plough ahead with the former. They had not provided care in the community, when they moved patients from geriatric wards into private nursing homes. That was simply moving people from public to private institutions. Labour would provide an earmarked payment to local authorities for home help services. They would also restore free eye tests.

They would take steps to plug the biggest gap in the government's list by reducing inequalities in health care between income levels. "They have spent a decade levering open the inequalities in income and cannot now admit that they have also widened inequalities in health. We can do it because we understand that people who are poor will also be in poor health."

Labour could also under-

ADRIAN BROOKS

## Centre's 'retreat' upsets right

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

## REACTION

TORY right-wingers reacted yesterday with a mixture of anger and dismay to the disclosure by William Waldegrave, the health secretary, that he would raise no objection to scrapping tax relief on private health insurance.

Their dismay was fuelled by weekend reports that John Major is planning to give full rein to Michael Heseltine's interventionist instincts by offering him the industry department if the Tories win the election.

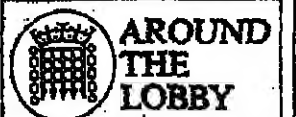
The anger over private health insurance, which extended to yesterday's debate as an opportunity to nail what they regard as Labour's lies. But by yesterday lunchtime, disillusioned right-wingers were pulling out of the debate in the belief that Robin Cook, the Opposition's chief health spokesman, would not pass up the unexpected bonus of another chance to portray the government as heaving an uncertain retreat from the high tide of the radicalism of the Thatcher years.

The dismay went deeper. With the poll tax heading for oblivion, higher public spending taking precedence over tax cuts, royal commissions making a comeback and the prime minister adopting a more emollient line than his predecessor over foreign affairs, the right is becoming increasingly anxious about the welfare of the Thatcher inheritance.

John Carlisle, Tory MP for Luton North and an outspoken scourge of the liberal conscience for more than a decade, thought Mr Waldegrave's move a "retrograde" step. "We should be giving more tax incentives to private health schemes, and that includes many millions of people, including trade unionists, who want to choose to spend their money in this way."

A former cabinet minister concurred. The reason why Britain came well down international tables measuring health spending as a proportion of GDP was that its private sector was so much smaller than other countries. Tax relief for the elderly, although it was unlikely to make a big impact given the size of premiums for the over-60s, was a step in the right direction.

As with many on the right, Mr Carlisle saw the health U-turn as symbolic of a broader repudiation of the Thatcherite faith. "I am very concerned about this drift away from what to my mind are good, true Conservative policies, like standing on your own feet and spending your money how you will... There seems to be a lemming-like rush to drop everything that was there before."



## Illegal parking to cost more

Motorists parking illegally are to face stiffer fines. Kenneth Baker, home secretary, announced in a written reply that from next April parking illegally on a London red route will incur a fine of £40; illegal parking elsewhere in London will mean a fine of £30 and £20 in other places. The fixed penalty for other endorsable offences will be £40.

## Lord's Prayer warning

The church commissioners should consider taking £1 from a clergyman's stipend every time he uses the new version of the Lord's Prayer referring to "our Mother and Father", Ian Taylor (Essex, C) said at questions. But Michael Allison, representing the commissioners, indicated that a clergyman who used the new prayer in church would be breaking the law. He said that as the liturgy of the Church of England was approved by Parliament and had a statutory basis, it was unlawful to change the present words of the Lord's Prayer or of any authorised service.

## Commons on television

It is hoped that television transmission of the complete debates in the House of Commons will begin in the new year, John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, said during question time. He said that there had been problems with the Marco Polo satellite, but he hoped that it would be used as soon as the problems had been overcome.

## Jackpot

The Treasury raised £98,491,000 from fruit machine licence duty last year, according to figures issued in a written reply from Gillian Shephard, Treasury minister. Nearly £87 million was raised in 1987, but that jumped to £96,777,000 the next year.

## Clean water

About 99 per cent of Welsh drinking water is up to EC standards or exceeds them, Nicholas Bennett, Welsh under secretary, said at question time. He criticised Labour MPs for "running down Britain".

**Parliament today**  
Commons (2.30): Questions; employment; prime minister. Export and investment guarantees bill, Lords amendments. Bill, Lords amendments. Bill, Lords amendments.

Lords (2.30): Debates on waste water treatment and on tobacco products health warnings. Propagation.



Cook (left) and Fowler: for and against Labour case

## Private care companies denounce tax plan

Private health care companies said yesterday that the proposed abolition of tax relief on policies for the elderly would cause an increase in premiums and lengthen national health service waiting lists.

While all agree that the original aim of the tax relief in encouraging pensioners to join schemes for the first time had failed, with the number of new policies being minimal, the companies believe that the 600,000 people taking advantage of the scheme would find cover priced beyond their means.

Most of those who benefit from the tax relief simply switched from policies that did not attract tax relief to those that did. The over-60s

Private firms believe that the proposed abolition of tax relief on policies for the elderly will harm the NHS, reports Lin Jenkins

already pay high premiums for policies, many of which do not cover chronic health problems, which become more likely in old age.

Julia Bailey, spokesman for PPP, Britain's second-largest private health company, conceded that introduction of the tax relief two years ago had generated little new business, but said that its abolition would be regrettable. She said: "It cost between £1 million and £2 million to set up the new policies, print the brochures

and that sort of thing, and will cost a lot to dismantle, and that cost has to be passed on to the subscribers."

About 200,000 of the company's 1.75 million clients are over 60. "Abolishing tax relief will price private health insurance out of the market for old people, thereby adding to the pressure on the national health service," she said.

Bupa estimates that premiums will rise by between £200 and £400 a year for 200,000 of its members if

the abolition proposed by William Waldegrave, the health secretary, goes ahead. Mike Smith, managing director, said: "Many of these members will now find it difficult to continue to pay their subscriptions, in which case they will have to return to being treated by the NHS. This will add further pressure to waiting lists."

Bupa suggested that if each of these over 60s claimed £500 a year for treatment, it was saving the health service £100 million a year. "We are talking about an age group which is likely to be making claims. They are also the group most likely to need the things for which waiting times with the NHS are the longest, such as prostate operations, cataract

surgery and hip replacements - over 25 per cent of the latter are done in the private sector," Sheila Longley, the group's spokesman said.

The company is planning to write to Mr Waldegrave and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, with its view.

Tax relief is available to all age groups on health insurance in Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria and Spain, under several broadly similar schemes. Tax relief is available in France and Belgium on disability insurance and in America the employer gets the tax incentive, although the recipient is not taxed on the health cover as a benefit in kind.

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## Conference on motorists' behaviour

## Drivers feel breaking law 'is worth risk'

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS who flout the law do so in the belief that it is socially acceptable and because the chances of getting caught are slim, a conference on driver behaviour was told yesterday.

Although recognising the need for traffic laws, some drivers regarded them as guidelines, to be broken when necessary. Others, who rarely break the law, could not see the point of adhering to some laws, such as the 30mph limit in urban areas.

The findings were unveiled by Claire Corbett, a researcher at the law department of Brunel University, at a conference in London on new insights into driver behaviour organised by the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety.

Dr Corbett's research suggests that some motorists enjoy breaking the law, are convinced there is little chance of getting caught, and believe that the penalties do not act as a sufficient deter-

rent. Most, however, accepted that drink-driving was socially unacceptable.

The research, completed in June and funded by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, was based on a survey of 1,100 drivers. Many of them had been involved in accidents and had been disqualified from driving and were not, therefore, a representative sample.

Dr Corbett said: "At the one extreme, high offenders chew many traffic laws as standards for their own behaviour, and at the other, low offenders may try to stick to all traffic laws whether or not they agree with them because they have a high moral commitment to all laws on and off the road."

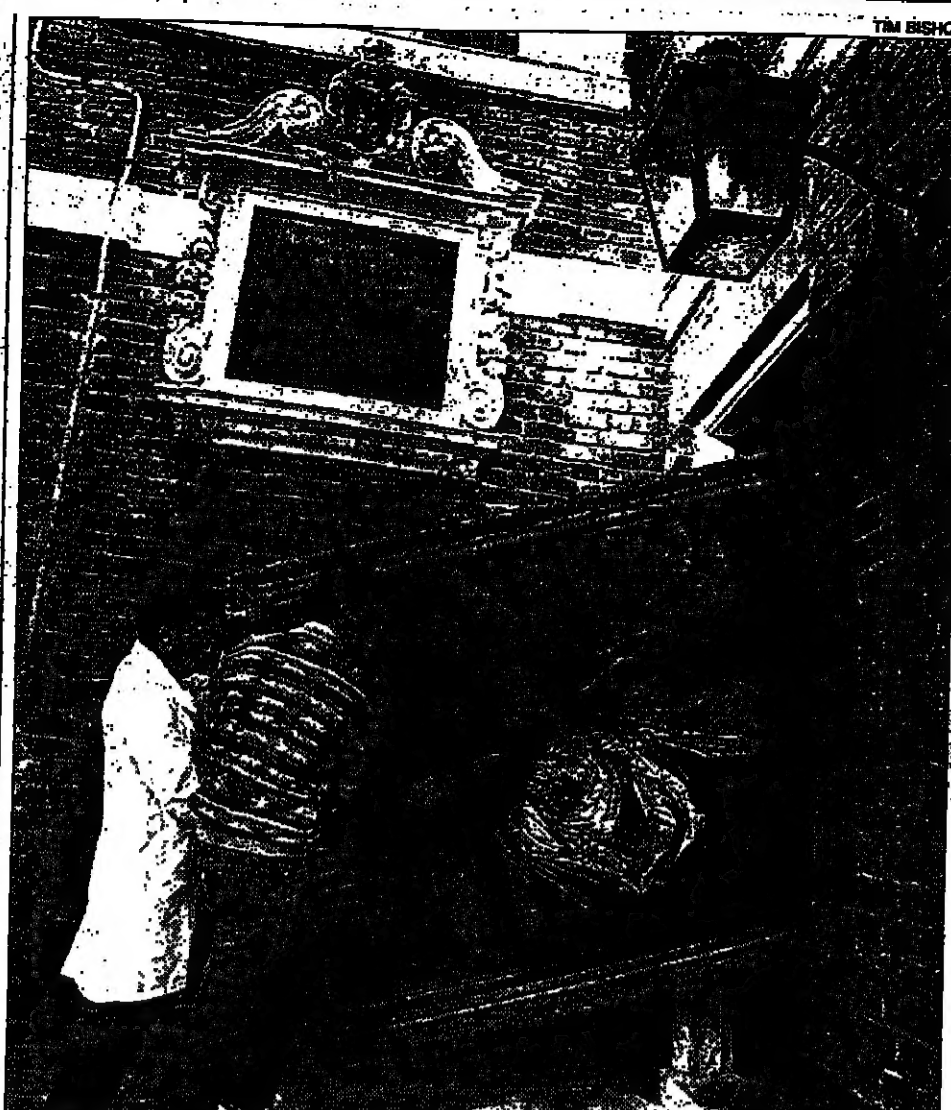
● The Princess of Wales yesterday pleaded with drivers to help reduce the "terrible waste of young and innocent lives" in road accidents. If motorists were more alert, the "chilling statistic" of some 400 children killed and thousands injured

on the roads each year would be reduced, she said.

"The safety of their children is paramount for every parent. Speaking as a mother of two active children, I know that this can sometimes be an awesome responsibility," she said at the launch of the transport department's child pedestrian safety campaign.

She said road accidents were the major single cause of child deaths. The Princess, speaking at Lancaster House, London, went on: "We all know that even the best-behaved child can be impulsive and unpredictable. Crossing the road is no exception. So drivers need to be more alert to the potential danger, particularly on residential roads where so many children come to grief."

Families also had their part to play in educating their youngsters in road safety, said the princess, who is patron of the Child Accident Prevention Trust and of Roadway, the head injuries organisation.



King's exit: workmen at the Old Royal Observatory, Greenwich, removing a palatine of Charles II from the Octagon Room as part of a restoration programme

## Glasgow switch 'too fast to measure'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ENGINEERS at Glasgow University have designed what is believed to be the world's fastest switch, which operates so quickly there is no way of measuring it.

The switch could be used for packing more than a million telephone conversations on to a single optical fibre cable, or for creating superfast computers using light, which may supersede today's electronic computers.

The Glasgow switch is operated by laser light and can go from on to off or back again in less than ten picoseconds, the time light takes to travel three millimetres. A picosecond is a millionth of a millionth of a second.

Stewart Aitchison, one of the team that produced the switch, believes that it may be even faster. The time was established in tests at the Centre for Research in Lasers and Electro-Optics at the university of Central Florida, but he thinks the switch is faster than the equipment used to test it.

"We firmly believe that this is the world's fastest semiconductor switch and that it should operate at times of ten femtoseconds," he said. A femtosecond is one thousandth of a picosecond.

The first possible application is in telecommunications. Optical cables already handle many TV channels or telephone calls simultaneously, condensing the information and putting it down the wire in bursts to be reconstituted at the other end. But their capacity is limited by the speed of the data-processing devices. The new switch works quickly enough to send 2,000 TV channels or 1.2 million telephone calls down the same cable at the same time.

The other big advantage of the switch is that it consumes virtually no power. Operating as the optical equivalent of a transistor, the switch might be used in supercomputers able to carry out even more calculations per second than today's machines.

At the heart of the device are two waveguides, made of a semiconductor material called aluminium gallium arsenide, which hold the light in "ribbons" much narrower than a human hair. Light will transfer from one to the other unless a laser is used to alter the refractive properties of one of the ribbons. That gives the switch two states, which can be alternated virtually instantaneously.

## Solicitor's clerk stole from aged clients

A solicitor's probate clerk who stole from the savings of old and infirm female clients was jailed yesterday. Harold Gregory, aged 61, used his power of attorney to steal from the society accounts of women in their 70s and 80s. Swindon crown court was told.

Gregory, of Swindon, admitted thefts totalling £26,262 from three clients and asked for 23 other offences to be considered. The total taken was £36,262, of which Gregory has so far repaid £10,000.

Judge Willis, sentencing Gregory to 12 months' imprisonment, of which 10 months are suspended, said that he was guilty of a "double breach of trust", against his employer — a Swindon law firm — and clients who gave him control of their affairs while infirm.

Gregory, who worked for Townsends for 20 years, was arrested after a routine check revealed discrepancies, the court was told. He had got into financial difficulty after the breakup of his marriage of 35 years, Graham Cottle, defending, said. Gregory was ordered to pay £26,262 compensation to Townsends.

## Tattoo service

The Wood Green animal shelter at Heydon, Hertfordshire, has set up a national mobile tattooing service to ensure that all remaining pit bull terriers are marked by the November 30 deadline set to avoid destruction.

## Putnam fined

David Putnam, the film director, of Little Somerford, Wiltshire, was banned from driving for 14 days after magistrates were told that he had driven at 100mph on the M4, near Swindon, Wiltshire, on his way to meet Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, in London. He was fined £90.

## Rape enquiry

Police are hunting a man who raped a woman aged 82 and stole her savings of £460 at her home at Chelmley Wood, Birmingham. He is white, 5ft 10in and aged about 45.

## Death fall

Christopher Allen, aged 21, a rock climber, of Bolton, Greater Manchester, died when he fell 250ft at Dow Crag, in the Lake District, police said yesterday.

## Cyclist killed

A cyclist was killed in a collision with an ambulance taking another injured cyclist to hospital at Water End, Clifton, York.

## Puffins return as rats take the bait

By KERRY GILL

PUFFINS, shelduck and black guillemots are returning to Ailsa Craig, the rocky outcrop off the southwest coast of Scotland, after conservationists rid the island of a huge population of brown rats that had multiplied over the past hundred years.

The poisoning of the thousands of rats that had ousted the island's last breeding puffins by the early Eighties has been so successful that conservationists on the Isles of Scilly and the Canaries are considering similar methods to get rid of their unwanted rodents.

Ailsa Craig, two miles in circumference and a protected wildlife area designated under EC legislation, used to boast hundreds of thousands of puffins living in burrows and untroubled by predators. But in 1889 supply ships began visiting the island to service the new lighthouse. With them came the rats which, by 1984, had chased away the last puffin.

The Ailsa Craig working group was established to investigate ways of getting rid of the rats while, at the same time, protecting any birdlife from poison. Helped by the Nature Conservancy Council, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and Rentokil, the group had three tonnes of Warfarin flown by Royal Navy helicopter to the island.

Placed in specially designed bait boxes, it affected the rats but posed no threat to bird life. The poisoned rats returned to their burrows to die, leaving no carcasses above ground.

Steve Sankey, regional officer for the RSPB, said yesterday that the decline in puffin pairs was most marked from about 1910

until the mid-Thirties. "Most sea birds nest on the cliffs, making them safe from predators, but puffins nest in burrows making them extremely vulnerable to rats. We believe that the rats reached Ailsa Craig in cargo vessels supplying the lighthouse from 1889 onwards and that was the time that the puffin population began to fall," Mr Sankey said.

The poisoning took place in March and, after an inspection, it appears that all the rats have been dealt



with. More bait may be put down next year to make sure there are none left. Mr Sankey said: "The rats are such prolific breeders it is essential that they all go. These are the common rats which are notorious villains in that they have human health implications, but we are optimistic that they have all been poisoned."

Black guillemots and shelduck are now nesting on Ailsa Craig, equally famous for its granite used to make Scottish curling stones, and puffins have at last reappeared on the island. Rat elimination proved successful more than 20 years ago on Cardigan Island where shearwaters have since returned in large numbers.

Conservationists in America have gone one stage further in the Atlantic seaboard state of Maine, where they have successfully used painted concrete puffins to attract the real thing.

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## Hanoi accepts forced return of boat people

By DAVID WATTS IN LONDON AND  
JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN and Vietnam have given the go-ahead for the deportation of Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong's crowded detention centres but in such small numbers as to call the agreement into question.

After months of negotiation the deal will cover no more than 220 people out of the colony's 64,000 that now crowd the detention centres. The total to be sent back is smaller than the number of those going back voluntarily each week under a United Nations-sponsored repatriation programme. The accord covers only the so-called "double-backers" — people

who have returned voluntarily to Vietnam in the past and are making their second or even third appearance in Hong Kong and taking advantage of the relatively generous UN allowances they receive on their return to their homeland.

Alastair Asprey, the Hong Kong secretary for security, described the agreement as a "first step". Negotiations were continuing for the return of all the "non-refugees" in Hong Kong. So far 149 double-backers have arrived in Hong Kong, many with their families, so a total of 318 people are theoretically covered by yesterday's agreement. But nearly 100 people have since volunteered to return.

The accord, little more than a face-saver clinched after extended exchanges, is facing continued American opposition as Washington refuses to countenance anything resembling involuntary return of the Vietnamese. There are more than 19,600 Vietnamese who have failed to be accepted as genuine political refugees in the so-called "screening process", and whom Hong Kong hopes Vietnam will take back. Less than 20 per cent of the remaining 40,000 people in the camps are expected to be "screened in" as refugees in the coming months.

Mr Asprey yesterday admitted that Hong Kong had hoped for more from the agreement but insisted that discussions with Vietnam would focus on ways to return the others in an orderly manner. However, he said agreement could not be reached overnight. For the moment he could not set a date for the return of the double-backers, adding that it would most likely be several weeks away. Despite the rising tension in Hong Kong's Vietnamese camps, he did not believe there would be any violence.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has said the double-backers will not receive the allowance paid to voluntary returnees.

## US looks at base in Malaysia

From REUTER  
IN KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA is being considered as a US Navy base for warship repairs after the closure of the Subic Bay naval dockyard in the Philippines in three years, Admiral Charles Larson, commander-in-chief of the US Pacific Command said yesterday.

He raised the subject of using the Lumut naval base, facing the strategic Strait of Malacca, in talks with Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, the Malaysian defence minister. "In our exchanges we both agreed it is an issue worth looking into," he said.

Malaysia had previously been reluctant to extend military facilities to America. Admiral Larson said the water at Lumut was deep enough only for small warships, and dredging would be required to allow bigger ships to dock.

Washington signed an agreement with Singapore last November for increased air and naval facilities there.



Daughter's gift: President Robinson of Ireland, left, in Boston, Massachusetts, receiving from Caroline Schlossberg Kennedy a bust of her father, President Kennedy

## Tremors impede quake rescue

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DEHRA DUN

ATTEMPTS to reach survivors of the powerful earthquake that hit northern India on Sunday are being hampered by continuing aftershocks, landslides, damaged roads and destroyed bridges.

The government mobilised the army, air force and paramilitary forces yesterday to get blankets, medicine and food to large numbers of densely populated villages that were flattened. Although the death toll was officially being put at around 500 last night, the full extent of the calamity is not yet known because of broken communications. The worst affected town, so far as was

known last night, was Uttarkashi, with a population of 30,000. Three hundred bodies had been recovered, local politicians said.

The worst hit areas were in the Himalayan foothills in Uttar Pradesh state, bordering Tibet. The shock was felt throughout the state, India's most populous, and also shook Delhi more than 200 miles away. There were heavy tremors in the northern states of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

Two-thirds of India is prone to earthquakes, raising questions about the wisdom of some dam projects. Leading

environmentalists yesterday signed a declaration calling for a re-evaluation of current projects, including the Tehri dam in Uttar Pradesh, which sits on a seismic fault. The government insists that such dams are earthquake-proof.

P.V. Narasimha Rao, the prime minister, dispatched a fact-finding team to the area yesterday and set up a relief committee. He plans to visit the affected region, perhaps today. The governing Congress (I) party appealed for volunteers to go to the area to help the wounded. A command centre has been set up in Dehra Dun.

## Khmer Rouge aide finds heart to admit mistakes

From JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Good humour is not something anyone expects in a senior Khmer Rouge official, but Long Norin, chief of protocol in the Khmer Rouge foreign ministry, seemed to be so bubbling over with the joys of life as to demand an explanation. Standing beside his Jeep at the Thai-Cambodian border near Khmer Rouge headquarters at Phum Tmai, he threw his arms in the air, laughed and exclaimed: "La guerre est finie".

Then, for 40 minutes he gave the frankest ever interview by a senior Khmer Rouge official. He even criticised other headline leaders of the shadowy organisation for wanting to send refugees back to an area of Cambodia where malaria is rife.

He said how moved he had been when he finally saw how people had suffered during Khmer Rouge rule, and how "mistakes" made by the fanatical Maoist group had led to loss of popular support and the occupation of Cambodia by the Vietnamese army in early 1979. History, he said, would have to find a balance between the good and bad of Khmer Rouge rule, under which a million people are believed to have died.

Mr Long Norin, aged 53, said Pol Pot, the notorious Khmer Rouge leader, had been criticised by Cambodians for the bad things that happened, but they praised him for water control dams which, he said, now made life in Cambodia easier.

Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge's nominal leader, joins leaders of three other Cambodian factions in Paris tomorrow to sign a peace accord formally ending 13 years of war and paving the way for the biggest UN peacekeeping operation ever.

Mr Long Norin, a close aide to Mr Khieu Samphan, claimed Vietnamese troops

were still in Cambodia, "hiding in the forest". Asked if the Khmer Rouge truly believed in a market economy, as it had been claiming, Mr Long Norin emphasised: "Yes, yes, yes, yes."

Asked directly if the Khmer Rouge had made mistakes during its rule from 1975 to late 1978, he replied: "I can say there were some bad things, that is why we could not contain the attack of the Vietnamese. If we had been doing only good things, all the population would have supported us and not run away as they did. We made some mistakes and that is how the Vietnamese were able to invade Cambodia."

Asked why he had not spoken out while the mistakes were being made, he said he had worked hard in his office in Phnom Penh, then a deserted city whose population had been evacuated to rural areas. "I was isolated, I did not know what was going on outside the city. I felt what I was doing was for the benefit of the country."

How does the image of this outwardly reformist Khmer Rouge match the reality? In this village people do indeed trade, and for the moment, there is no terror. But there is a rather sombre atmosphere. The people may not be oppressed as before but, unlike Mr Long Norin, they still do not laugh much.



Khieu Samphan: to sign peace accord in Paris

## Mobutu sacks his rival

Kinshasa — President Mobutu of Zaire has sacked Etienne Tshisekedi, the prime minister and a long-standing opponent, plunging his riot-torn central African country into further political turmoil.

As units of Marshal Mobutu's elite presidential guard used tear gas and fired shots in the air to disperse about 15,000 supporters of Mr Tshisekedi who had gathered outside the prime minister's office, the midday television news twice broadcast the presidential decree dismissing him.

Hundreds of demonstrators fleeing the attack took refuge in the French and Belgian embassies. They had assembled at Mr Tshisekedi's request to help him try to force his way into the office from which he had been barred by troops loyal to the president since Saturday. (Reuters)

## Dissident out

Taipei — Kuo Cheng-kuang, aged 42, a Taiwanese dissident with American citizenship, was deported from Taiwan after being arrested at Taipei's international airport while trying to flee a government crackdown on dissent. A leading member of the outlawed World United Formosans for Independence group, he was flown to a country which a spokesman for the Taiwanese Bureau of Investigation declined to identify. (Reuters)

## Debate rejected

Kuala Lumpur — Malaysia's parliament threw out an opposition motion demanding that Burma release Aung San Suu Kyi, the detained Nobel peace-prize winner and opposition leader. The speaker rejected the motion, saying that though of public interest the matter did not warrant urgent discussion. (Reuters)

## Gold handcuffs

Hong Kong — Police have smashed China's biggest gold-smuggling ring since the 1949 communist takeover, arresting more than 40 people, including five from Macau, the Hong Kong Oriental Daily News reported. (Reuters)

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## Soviet parliament makes creaky debut

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

WITH no chairman, no agenda and five of the 12 Soviet republics unrepresented, the twice-postponed autumn session of the Soviet parliament was finally convened yesterday.

A microcosm of the administrative confusion which prevails across the former union, the Supreme Soviet was opened by its oldest delegate to prevent inter-republic squabbling for the chairmanship before hearing a lacklustre address by President Gorbachev on the virtues of democracy and of staying together. Within 45 minutes deputies had broken up into republic delegations to discuss how to proceed.

During the opening of the platform was adorned with eight flags — those of the seven republics represented and the red and gold hammer and sickle of the Soviet Union. In the body of the hall

the depleted ranks of deputies were filled out by a good number from the Congress of People's Deputies, the now defunct, but not disbanded, full union parliament, and members of the interim economic committee which has taken over the economic responsibilities of the former union government.

Two of the republics not taking part, Moldavia and Azerbaijan, each sent a group of observers. But the Ukraine, whose delegation would have been the second largest, sent nobody. Members of the new parliament's steering committee said last week that they had had no contact with Georgia, and Armenia is reported not yet to have decided whether or not to take part. One of the new parliament's first unpublicised tasks was to try to muster delegations to visit each errant republic with an appeal to attend.

As constituted yesterday, the parliament is heavily dominated by the Russian Federation, which has 52 deputies in the newly constituted Council of the Republics, the upper chamber, as opposed to 20 for each of the other republics, and more than 100 in the Council of the Union, the lower chamber, out of a planned total of 191. The other republics, Belorussia and the five Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia and Uzbekistan, have far fewer deputies than Russia, but they enjoy equal voting rights in the upper chamber.

The new parliament was planned as an interim body to cover what is described as the "transitional period", although transitional to what has never been clearly defined. In his address yesterday, Mr Gorbachev referred repeatedly to its transitional nature and trod a carefully balanced line between expressing confidence in the future of a Soviet federation (and a joint parliament) and warnings of the consequences of disintegration.

Calling for central control of defence and, above all, the country's nuclear capacity, he expressed particular concern about attempts by republics to nationalise or even privatise units of the Soviet armed forces. When deputies laughed, Mr Gorbachev chided them, saying: "This is no joking matter. It is dangerous, frivolous, irresponsible and illegal." He also threatened to bring in undefined "constitutional measures".

Afterwards, talking to reporters in the lobby, he said: "I am responsible for this area [of defence] and I will just repeat such privatisation acts as illegal." Like Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, in a television interview last week, Mr Gorbachev also gave a warning of "unpopular, but necessary" economic measures to come.

The opening ceremony, which was televised live, appeared to be largely for show, to demonstrate to domestic and foreign audiences that a central parliament still exists — just from now on, however, the parliament's two chambers will meet separately, joining only on rare occasions. What power it had has mostly trickled away to the republics.

Croatian radio reported that clashes on Sunday night near Dubrovnik were the worst. It claimed that resorts along the stretch of coast were "unrecognisable". Mlini and Plat, the picturesque resorts a few miles south of Dubrovnik and the most popular among British holiday makers, were said to have been badly damaged. "Not a single hotel in the area is whole," the radio said.

Mortars from army shelling fell a few hundred yards from Dubrovnik's old city walls. A team of inspectors from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation is now on its way to the ancient city, which is under its protection.



Lonely at the top: President Gorbachev addressing the autumn session of the Soviet parliament which opened yesterday with five republics unrepresented

## Serb dissidents urge Dubrovnik reprieve

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SERBIAN intellectuals supporting the anti-war movement have issued a new appeal to save Dubrovnik, the picturesque seaside resort on the Adriatic coast. They have demanded that the Yugoslav army withdraw immediately from the area, saying that "the civilised world" would never forgive them if any part of the historic city, under UN protection as a cultural treasure, was destroyed.

"There is no such aim that could justify destruction of what was created in the past and what we are obliged to safeguard and leave to posterity," the appeal, signed by thousands of Serbs, said. The anti-war movement, gaining in support, also demanded that the army declare Dubrovnik and its surrounding vil-

lages a demilitarised zone. The movement had initiated late-night vigils in a Belgrade park to highlight its opposition to the war.

One of its activities is gathering information on suspected war crimes while another is providing legal assistance to those refusing to take part in the fighting. An appeal also has been sent to Serbian opposition parties to take a clear stance against the war and condemn the destruction of cultural monuments.

But the sporadic fighting between Serbs and Croats has continued to wreck each ceasefire that is negotiated; the tenth signed last week in The Hague was doomed from the start. At least 25 people have been killed since last Saturday, when the latest ceasefire was scheduled to take effect.

Hundreds of young army conscripts and reservists have been killed and many more crippled. Their families have now accused the federal army of concealing the exact number of casualties. Many towns and villages have been devastated and more than 200,000 refugees, both Croats and Serbs, have fled from their homes. Flights out of Yugoslavia are now fully booked as the young flee to Western Europe to seek asylum as conscientious objectors.

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## Prague hijack men seek \$1m

Prague — Two men yesterday hijacked a Czechoslovak Tu-134 aircraft at Prague airport, holding five crew members and two passengers hostage and demanding a ransom of \$1 million (£580,000). They released ten of the 12 passengers and asked for two parachutes.

The plane was on an internal flight to Bratislava, the Slovak capital. (Reuters)

## Election defeat

Sofia — The defeat of Bulgaria's communists has been confirmed by the central electoral commission. It said the anti-communist Union of Democratic Forces won 34.36 per cent of the vote and the Socialist, former Communist, party 33.14 per cent. (Reuters)

## High flyer

Algiers — Hector, a 45lb Andes-born condor with a 10ft wingspan, has celebrated his 100th birthday at Hammam zoo in Algiers, the curator, Faissal Haffasi, said. (AFP)

## Major protests to Delors over 'green' roadblock

FROM ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN HARARE

JOHN Major has protested angrily to Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, about the action of Carlo Ripa di Meana, the European Community environment commissioner, who last week demanded that work should be stopped on a number of British transport projects, including the M3 extension through Twyford Down.

In his strongest criticism yet of the EC, the prime minister said at a press conference in Harare that the commission's intervention was "astonishing". He said: "We had no previous notice of it. It was not the first time it has happened. It seems to me to be on the basis of ill-informed reports and not facts. It is absolutely how the European Commission ought not to behave, and I have told them so."

Downing Street has dispatched a stiff note to M Delors demanding that Signor Ripa di Meana be rapped over the knuckles for what is seen as an unwarranted intrusion into Britain's national affairs. Britain accepts the right of the commission to act in matters of genuine environmental concern across the EC, such as the pollution of common waterways or of beaches. But it argues that the EC has no right to interfere by calling for an end to work on projects, such as the east London river crossing and the M11-to-Hackney link, because these are projects which have no effect on Britain's EC partners.

The prime minister is particularly incensed by the timing of the EC move before the sensitive Maastricht summit on economic and political union. Britain believes that Signor Ripa di Meana's action, in a letter to Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, makes a nonsense of EC claims of practising "subsidiarity" — leaving decisions to be taken at the lowest level possible — and is expecting the EC to announce at the next meeting of European environment ministers that Signor Ripa di Meana's request has been withdrawn.

M Delors and other EC officials are privately furious over the way in which the demands that Britain stop seven big building projects were handled. Signor Ripa di Meana is likely to come under attack for headline-grabbing tactics when the EC's 17 commissioners meet in Strasbourg tomorrow.

The environment commissioner's sin in M Delors' eyes has been to make political capital out of a delicate legal issue.

Signor Ripa di Meana, in his formal capacity as commissioner, gave notice that Britain was suspected of infringing an EC directive making "environmental impact assessments" compulsory for large construction projects. The decision to open these lengthy proceedings was taken by the whole commission at one of its weekly meetings. The trouble was started by his postscript asking Mr Rifkind to stop work on the projects "so that the environment will neither be lost nor damaged beyond repair".

## EC-Efta talks verge on collapse

FROM TOM WALKER IN LUXEMBOURG

TALKS between the European Community and its European Free Trade Association neighbours on the creation of the world's largest free trade area were perilously close to collapse yesterday.

Despite the theoretical benefits of liberalising trade between the 12-nation and seven-member blocks, ministers here quickly became bogged down on the three areas that have bedevilled the talks for the best part of two years: fish, Alpine road transit, and compensation funds for southern states of the Twelve, who feel threatened by the new Scandinavian presence.

Although Hanja Maij-Weggen, the Dutch transport minister, who chaired the meeting, said that "95 per cent of our problems have been overcome", it became clear as the day wore on that the core 5 per cent remained as intractable as ever. Thus a Dutch compromise plan, thrust out with the Austrians and Swiss, on trucks bound for Greece and Italy was rejected by Athens and fishing rights remained a running sore between Iceland, which wants no extra access for EC states, and Spain and Portugal, which both demand expanded northern territories for their fishing fleets.

Yesterday's was the fourth deadline imposed for an agreement on the so-called European Economic Area, and the Dutch presidency of the EC says the talks cannot carry on eating into the crowded pre-Maastricht timetable.

With no agreement, Efta, which was formed in 1958, could become meaningless as the list of its members applying for full EC membership grows, but none the less many Efta nations seem to feel the European Economic Area can only be agreed in full, or not at all. "Nothing will be ready unless all of it is ready because the issues are so intertwined," said Ulf Dinkelspiel, the Swedish trade minister.

## Oslo expels Moscow envoys

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN OSLO

EIGHT Soviet diplomats suspected of spying were yesterday declared unwelcome in Norway and the three still in the country were ordered to leave by November 15.

The group, the largest number of Soviet diplomats ever expelled from Norway, included Lev Koshchyakov, who was identified by Norwegian newspapers as the KGB's chief representative in Norway. A Norwegian foreign ministry statement said that the diplomats "had behaved in a

manner incompatible with their diplomatic status", adding that none of them would be allowed to return.

The *Aftenposten* newspaper said that Mikhail Butkov, aged 33, the Oslo-based Soviet journalist and KGB agent who defected to the West in June, had confirmed the suspicions of the Norwegian intelligence agency that the eight diplomats were spying. "This has to do with the Butkov defection and the excellent work of our intelligence service," a

spokesman for the foreign ministry said.

He said Norway considered that the matter was closed and did not expect Moscow to expel Norwegian diplomats in retaliation. He said that the eight Soviet diplomats were not believed to have obtained information that would be damaging to Norway.

The foreign ministry said the expulsion brought to 47 the number of Soviet diplomats expelled from Norway since the second world war.

## Tyranny touches hearts democracy cannot reach

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

COMMUNISM is good for the libido, according to studies carried out since the unification of Germany. A recent report for the first all-German conference of psychologists since 1933 explained how growing up under a centralised system affects the parts which democracy cannot reach.

The study was conducted by Peter Becker and Klaus-Dieter Hängsen from Trier. They interviewed 300 East Germans and 298 West Germans aged between 18 and 65, using a questionnaire

with 600 points designed to see how 40 years of division affected character formation. They traced two basic differences. One was that western Germans were more likely to be independent minded. The other was that easterners were "more capable of love". The two characteristics, they found, were really just two sides of the same coin. On one hand, greater freedom created the ability to take decisions; on the other, constant subordination to a collective system weakened a person's ability

to make up his own mind. This strengthened the feeling of solidarity with others, causing a person to become "more capable of love".

Figures issued yesterday by the federal statistical office show that love and marriage have become decidedly less popular since unification brought Western-style democracy to eastern Germany just over a year ago. The number of marriages there during the first seven months of this year fell by 57 per cent to about 28,000. Over the same per-

iod the number of births fell by 40 per cent to about 67,000. In the west, unification pushed up the birth rate by 2.7 per cent to 424,000, although the number of marriages fell by 4.5 per cent to 218,000.

The greater ability of a communist-trained person to love was not the only finding of the Trier survey. The questionnaire discovered that respect for order, principles and thrift along with a regular lifestyle was far greater in the east than in the west. However, the re-

port did not consider these to be a character deformation "especially as they seem to be typical German virtues".

Another long-term study, carried out in the east by Klaus-Dieter Hängsen and Erika Kaselke of the Humboldt University in east Berlin, showed effects of the rapid change from communism to democracy. There were few variations between the first two studies. Both suggest that freedom has been its own antidote to the unsettling effects for which it is responsible.

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## Shamir confident he will stay in power

From RICHARD BESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, said yesterday his government was not under threat of collapse because of unease among his small extremist coalition partners about the Middle East peace conference scheduled to begin in Madrid on October 30.

Speaking at Ben-Gurion airport before leaving for Strasbourg, where he will address the European parliament today, Mr Shamir was trying to ease fears after Sunday night's decision by the Tehiya party to withdraw its three Knesset members from the government coalition if Israel attends the talks. "I do not see any

danger to the existence of the government at this time," he said. A cabinet majority had backed his decision to attend.

Political sources said that more defections were unlikely until the conference began and emphasised that the two remaining right-wing parties and the larger religious parties had pledged to remain in the government. Yitzhak Rabin, the deputy leader of the opposition Labour party, earlier vowed that his party would not allow the Likud government to fall while it was engaged in negotiations on Middle East peace. He said: "The Labour party will not

allow any vote of no confidence while the peace process is going on."

Although it now seems certain that the talks will go ahead, Mr Shamir reiterated yesterday that he reserved the right to boycott the conference until he had seen a list of the Palestinian delegates. Israel insists that they must not be members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and must come from the occupied territories. "We will see if this list meets the rules we have accepted," he said.

The last-minute caution by Mr Shamir was raised after the leader of the Palestinian delegation, Haider Abdel-Shafi, fudged the issue of PLO participation yesterday, when he said: "In the sense that all Palestinians have allegiance to the PLO so they (the delegation) are."

Mr Shamir also made it clear that Israel would continue to take any action necessary to secure its safety regardless of what effect it would have on the forthcoming talks. "We have not put any restriction on ourselves and we do not feel any restriction from striking at Hezbollah terrorists or other kind of terrorists who harm our soldiers," he said. The Israeli air force yesterday attacked a Shia Muslim militia position in southern Lebanon to avenge the death on Sunday of three Israeli soldiers in a bomb blast in Lebanon.

Nevertheless, the government is displaying some sensitivity before next week's talks. Yesterday it was revealed that a new settlement, due to be opened in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights the day the conference opens, has been put off.

Hostage hopes, page 1  
Dialogue of the deaf, page 14

## Ozal prime minister quits after poll defeat

From ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

MESUT Yilmaz, the Turkish prime minister, offered the resignation of his government yesterday after his Motherland party came second in Sunday's general election.

Now it is up to Suleyman Demirel, aged 67, who has been in the political wilderness for 11 years, to try to form a coalition. His True Path party topped the poll with 27.4 per cent of the vote which, at the latest tally, will give it 182 seats in the 450-seat assembly. This means he will have to find a coalition partner.

He has a choice of three, including a pro-Islamic party whose strong showing was the big surprise of the election. Necmettin Erbakan's Welfare party won approximately 16.8 per cent of the vote, partly through its pre-electoral pact with an extreme nationalist party. The nationalists, head-

ed by Alparslan Turkes, another political veteran, now make up a block of 20 of the Welfare party's estimated 62 MPs, enough to give it the status and privileges of a "group" in parliament.

Mr Demirel was in coalition with Mr Turkes and Mr Erbakan in the 1970s in a government remembered chiefly for the start of left and right-wing violence that ended only with the military coup of 1980. Mr Erbakan's anti-Zionist, anti-American and anti-Western banking rhetoric will fit uneasily with Mr Demirel's promises of a more liberal society with homes and cars for everyone.

The logical ideological bed-fellow for the True Path would, in fact, be the ousted Motherland party, which is expected to have 111 seats.

Leading article, page 15



Taste of freedom: the mother of Hassan Hamka hugs and kisses her son in Tyre yesterday shortly after his release from an Israeli prison in southern Lebanon. He had been held prisoner for seven years and was freed along with 14 other Lebanese inmates

## Israel unearths goodwill over Sinai treasures

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TABA, SINAI

THE quest for peace in the Middle East has received a boost from the disclosure that a treasure trove of antiquities removed by Israel during its 15-year occupation of the Sinai peninsula may soon be returned to Egypt.

Among the antiquities and relics involved in the negotiations are pottery, statuettes, coins dating from the Ptolemaic period, the remains of pillars of a Roman temple, prehistoric tools and phara-

onic artefacts. Ibrahim Bakr, the chairman of the Egyptian antiquities organisation, announced that an Egyptian delegation has been given permission to travel to Israel for the first time to discuss the treasures' return. "The climate of peace in the Middle East is giving a push to the discussions," said Dr Bakr, who said the team was expected to leave next month.

"The Israelis have given a signal from their side that they

are ready to discuss the problem. It is in the interest of both sides to sit together."

Assisted by foreign archaeologists, as well as specialist publications, the Egyptian side has compiled a long list of what it claims was stolen. It alleges the antiquities and artefacts were transported to Israel from the Sinai desert between 1967 and 1982. Some were put on display in Israeli museums. During that period, Israeli and foreign teams de-

voted much energy to excavating the Sinai, an area frequently mentioned in the Bible.

Egyptian officials claim that Israeli excavations began soon after the conquest of Sinai in the 1967 war. Among those involved were missions from the Ben-Gurion and Hebrew universities and the Jerusalem and Haaretz institutes. The accord was described by Dr Bakr as "a first step in cultural co-operation".

## Rebels free American

Islamabad — Pro-Iranian rebels in Afghanistan have freed an American hostage they had held since July, the US embassy said yesterday.

Dr William Lewis, a veterinary surgeon, who was released late on Sunday, and an American colleague whose identity has not been released, were abducted in Ghazni province by Nahazai Islami, a small group. The embassy refused to say whether any ransom had been paid. (AP)

## South African police to be trained in Britain

From SAM KILBY IN HARARE

MEMBERS of the South African police, who over the last few years have become known for their liberal use of shotguns, tear gas and whips, may soon arrive in Britain for training in the "softly-softly" approach to community policing.

According to British government sources, the South African government is enthusiastic about sending a number of its police officers abroad to take courses in race relations and community policing. Although they refused to reveal when police officers would arrive in Britain, ministers said that both the African National Congress and

the South African government are keen to learn from the success of a number of police forces who radically changed their approach to local policing after the Bristol and Brixton riots of the early 1980s.

"The South African government clearly realises the need to change the style and tradition of policing in the townships," a government source said yesterday. "We expect that there will initially be a team of South African policemen sent to Britain and if that works well there is also the possibility that British police may be sent to train officers in new approaches to

law and order in South Africa."

The policing initiative is part of a policy to build up democratic institutions in South Africa which Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, hopes will lead to a smooth transition to multiparty democracy in that country. Last week it was announced that five members of the African National Congress would arrive for civil service training in Britain in November as part of the same scheme.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, met John Major last week, and like other ANC officials who had meetings with the British delegation to the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Harare, pressed the problem of spiralling violence in South African townships. This has claimed hundreds of lives over the last month and shows no sign of abating despite the signing of a peace agreement between the ANC, the Zulu Inkatha and the National party government.



Kaifu: taking cue from the Commonwealth

## Japanese to end sanctions

Tokyo — Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, is expected to lift the bulk of Tokyo's remaining economic sanctions against South Africa in the next few days (Joanna Pittman writes).

In the wake of indications that the Commonwealth will phase out restrictions on tourism and direct air links and that it favours the phased withdrawal of trade sanctions, the international trade and industry ministry said that Tokyo would lift its economic embargo "very soon". Until 1988, Japan was South Africa's main trading partner.

## Brown enters US race

JERRY Brown, the former governor of California, yesterday declared himself the seventh Democrat in next year's presidential race, railing against "Washington politicians who run the United States of America like a private club".

Mr Brown, whose 1970s elections were won in an atmosphere of reaction to the Watergate era, is trying again to tap the feeling of resentment against the excesses of government. He announced his third presidential bid by attacking both Republicans and Democrats for the "unholy alliance of private greed and corrupt politics" which, he said, was "devastating the nation".

Since his last successful race in 1978, Mr Brown has been a regular object of mockery. He is still known as "Governor Moonbeam" because of his fascination for space communications and Zen philosophy during the days that he ran California from a tiny apartment.

Yesterday, however, both parties were prepared to take the candidature seriously. Mr Brown's call for limitations on the length of time that Washington politicians can serve fits in well with the national

A former California governor seeks to tap resentment against government excesses, Peter Stothard writes from Washington

mood. So, too, does his rejection of financial backing from big lobby groups and his statement that he will accept no contributions larger than \$100 (£59).

He made his announcement in Philadelphia, invoking the spirit of the age of Thomas Jefferson when politics was a business for gentlemen amateurs. He said that "we, the people" had to reclaim American democracy from professional organizations and propaganda machines.

The Brown candidacy has added to the sense of uncertainty in Washington as politicians and commentators struggle to decide what stance to take on the "term limits" issue. The Thomas hearings have temporarily intensified the sense of dissatisfaction with entrenched incumbents on Capitol Hill.

Domestic politics has suddenly come alive after months of domination by foreign af-

airs. The staggering economy is making the White House increasingly nervous. Both parties are working hard to produce tax-cutting legislation to appeal to the middle class, with the White House raising the issue for the first time yesterday and the 1988 Democratic vice-presidential candidate, Lloyd Bentsen, beating his rivals to the starting gate with a "\$72.5 billion anti-recession package".

The White House also had to deal yesterday with the fallout from Louisiana where the incumbent Buddy Roemer, establishment favourite in the governor's race, was squeezed out by the former Ku Klux Klansman, David Duke. The president's spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, strongly rejected Mr Duke but the Republican party knows that it cannot afford to repudiate his message of opposition to racial quotas, social security abuse and abortion.

Mr Brown will start as the best known of all President Bush's opponents. Although his chances of surviving the nomination process are small, the volatility he adds to the race is further encouragement to the still better known and more powerful New York governor, Mario Cuomo.

## Police arrest man with pistol at UN

New York — A man armed with a .22 automatic pistol and 100 rounds of ammunition was arrested yesterday as he entered the United Nations building.

Santiago Lopez, aged 42, a Mexican living in Florida, was charged with criminal possession of a weapon, police said. It was not known why he had tried to take the gun into the General Assembly. He told security guards he wanted to speak to a member of the human rights division. (AP)

## Muggers strike

New York — Bess Myerson, aged 66, a former Miss America, was mugged at Moscow's international airport by a band of purse-snatchers who knocked her to the floor, breaking her right leg in three places, the New York Post reported. She became the first Jewish woman to be crowned Miss America in 1945. (AP)

## Flight ordeal

Shaniko, Oregon — Patty Sharp, aged 23, who had never piloted a plane before, reached over the body of her father, who died at the controls of his single-engine aircraft, apparently of a heart attack, and landed it safely. (AP)

## Bleak outpost spurns Namibian embrace

From GAVIN BELL IN WALVIS BAY

WILLIE Bezuidenhout is in danger of losing what he regards as his homeland, graciously bequeathed to his ancestors by Queen Victoria, and he does not like it.

As acting town clerk of Walvis Bay, a bleak South African enclave on the Namibian coast, Mr Bezuidenhout is unhappy about moves to integrate the harbour community in the newly independent nation which

territory. "In our opinion it was occupied illegally, acquired by forgery, and retained in contravention of current international law."

All three men are hostages of a quirk of colonial history, when Captain Richard Dyer of the British warship HMS Industry sailed into the bay in March 1878, and annexed it in the name of Queen Victoria. Proclaimed part of the Cape colony six years later, it was inherited by South Africa in 1920 under a League of Nations mandate to administer South West Africa. But when Namibia became independent last year, the South African flag continued to fly.

Negotiations this year produced agreement in principle to joint administration of the enclave pending a definitive solution. A joint technical committee is due to work out the practical details.

Despite its gloomy appearance, a sand-blown industrial sprawl on the desolate Atlantic coastline of the Namib desert, Walvis Bay is of prime economic importance to Namibia. The only deep water port between Cape Town and Luanda, it offers an alternative to trading routes through South Africa, and has a rejuvenated fishing industry.

Andreas Guibeb, the permanent secretary for foreign affairs, accuses Pretoria of delaying a settlement. "We have understanding for South Africa's domestic problems, such as placating its white constituency, but we would expect equal sensitivity to the expectations our government has to satisfy. We have been very patient, but the time has come to begin the process of reintegration."

From CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

A THOUSAND firemen yesterday made little headway against a ferocious scrubland blaze that swept out of the dry hills above Oakland and Berkeley in California and raced through suburbs killing at least ten people and burning hundreds of houses.

Cooler temperatures helped the fire brigades and dozens of water bombing aircraft and helicopters which had struggled in record heat and high winds to slow the fire. The sky around the San Francisco Bay was dark with ash, causing street lights to stay on all day. Propane tanks, electricity transformers and trees could be heard exploding from miles away as the fire leaped from street to street devouring houses in a single rush. Among the victims were a family of five who died trying to escape their burning home. A fireman and a police officer also were killed and more bodies were sighted in the fire's path. Over 100 people were taken to hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation and burns.

Governor Pete Wilson, who toured the area on Sunday, hours after it broke out, called the blaze the worst

## Wall of fire claims 10 lives in Californian hills



Fire power: a fireman battling against intense heat in the search for injured residents of flats in Oakland, California

he had witnessed. "I flew over Santa Barbara after the fire last year, but this is much worse," he said. Don Perata, the chief executive of Alameda county, said: "The closest you could come to comparing it to something was the firebombing during

second world war. Everywhere you looked there were flames. The quake two years ago was over very quickly and then we had to deal with recovery. This just keeps going," Mr Perata remarked.

A lack of water hindered the firemen as the blaze

knocked out power to pumping stations that would have been used to replenish a nearby reservoir. The fire roared so quickly through the hills, parched after five years of drought, that areas as

parently safe one minute were hit the next. Police cars

crawled through the streets urging homeowners to leave immediately for emergency centres. A long convoy of cars wound its way down through the hills, leaving hundreds of houses at the mercy of the flames. The fire, which destroyed some

200,000 acres, was believed to have sprung from a smouldering grassfire. One of those injured was Joe Jorgensen, who suffered burns to his arm and hand. "I was trying to get out. I was driving my motorcycle down the street and all of a sudden there was a wall of flames. I looked down and I was on fire. I got control of the bike and then ran over to a house and hosed myself down."

The Claremont hotel, filled to capacity for the California-Washington football game, was evacuated. Knut Gotterup, who lived in the area above the hotel, was able to scoop up a few possessions before being forced from his home. "One of the neighbours came over and told us to grab what we could and get out," he said. "As we got out, we saw the flames. They were about 1,000 yards away. As I was driving down the street, I looked in the mirror and saw all the houses across the streets going up in flames."

As he drove down the hill, he was confronted with a scene he likened to London during the blitz. "People were driving, tears coming down their faces," he said. "The ones who weren't crying were just looking straight ahead. We all got out safely but we lost everything."

for protests to Delors over 'roadblock'

E.C.-Efta talks verge on collapse

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malaysia



## CLASSICAL MUSIC

## Survival of the sweetest

ANOTHER Swedish night-gale has ascended into the musical firmament. Ann-Christine Göransson, from Gothenburg, won the BP Peter Pears Award on Saturday and took her place in the line of descent from Jenny Lind and Birgit Nilsson down to Anne-Sofie von Otter and Hillevi Martinpelto today.

Nordic voices, which in their distinctive contour and cultivation are adding a subtle new shade to the musical spectrum. At 24, Göransson has had far less experience either in concert or in opera than her performance suggested. For one rare moment, I completely forgot I was present at the finals of a competition. Her "Per pietà" (from *Così fan tutte*) was so entirely present that the character of Fiordiligi became incarnate. Darker tones and a sharper force will no doubt soon enter the voice as well, helped by the linguistic facility Göransson showed in her Debussy and, earlier, in Seiber's "The Owl and the Pussycat" and a Wolf song.

If a competition really can bring a singer such as Göransson to the fore, then I am almost persuaded of its justification. Almost, but not quite. This cruet of spurs and often unreliable mood of unnatural selection operated true to form in placing the confident and already much employed baritone William Dazeley in second place in preference to the more sensitive and musically intelligent Nathan Berg.

Berg, it is true, has his problems, not least in a somewhat underemployed diaphragm. But then so does Dazeley whose tight, back-of-the-throat voice production makes for a superficially robust but hard and inflexible instrument.

The BP Peter Pears Award places high value on those attributes Pears himself possessed: sensitive phrasing and clear, expressive diction. On these grounds alone, baritone Peter Harvey deserved his fourth place aided in no small part by Sir Charles Mackerras and the orchestra of English National Opera who were such valuable accompanists in the second half of the evening.

The night before, the Queen Elizabeth Hall had endured a concert performance of Sir Arthur Bliss's opera, *The Olympians*. It was neither Olympian nor was it bliss. Chelsea Opera Group is the benefit-of-the-doubt company par excellence, generously eager to give operas which may have been unjustly neglected a second or third chance. *The Olympians* has had only one concert performance (1972) since its London premiere in 1949 and, quite frankly, does not deserve any more.

The work shows just how difficult it is to write operatic comedy with any real substance or insight: how one appreciates the sophistication of *Albert Herring* after this. There are shades of that opera in the pompous, blustering Joseph Lavatte (Brian Bannatyne-Scott) and the billowing tones of Madame Bardoni (Carole Rosen). The eponymous Olympians who perform and, in a bit of midsummer magic, all but take over the play within this weakly constructed Priestley libretto, act like something out of Angela Brazil theatrical, with cries of "Artemis, halloo, halloo" and a shrieking chorus of Bacchantes. Martyn Brabbins conducted a performance in which the singing of Bannatyne-Scott, Christopher Gillett (the wimpish lover, Hector), and Christine Bunning (the hapless Diana) was heroically enjoyable.

AND so to the other big let-down of the week. The London Symphony Orchestra's Leonard Bernstein Memorial Concert at the Barbican lacked exactly that sense of occasion which all Bernstein events really need. Michael Tilson Thomas had chosen a programme of fragments where a single major work would have been a fairer, more substantial tribute. The recently premiered *A Quiet Place* suite was disappointing in its lack of the development and transformation promised at the start, but the *Chichester Psalms* saved the day. Young Daniel Ison's eloquent performance of Psalm 23 sang out all that needed to be said.

HILARY FINCH

## Still singing with blues in the blood

A confirmed workaholic, B.B. King used to play about 300 concerts each year. In one year in the late Fifties he managed to fit in more than 340 one-night stands, but now, with his 66th birthday behind him, he admits that he is no longer quite so energetic. So he is down to a mere 250 a year. He will notch up one more this Monday, when he appears at the Albert Hall on a triple-bill with the soul-jazz singer Dianne Reeves and an all-star big band led by the pianist Gene Harris.

King and the band were rehearsing in New York last week prior to their world tour. In the studio on 41st Street the mood was jovial and informal. As he arrived, King roamed the room, seeking out old acquaintances such as the renowned Basie trumpeter Harry Edison and Dizzy Gillespie's longtime partner, James Moody.

Of course, King is supposed to be the star of the show, yet for much of the time he behaves as if this were an audition, laughing nervously over occasional false starts. Not wholly familiar with the arrangements, he seems slightly overawed in the presence of so many schooled musicians. Blues artists, remember, have always been the poor relations of black American music. "I'm no sight-reader," says King. "I know one note from another, but if I had to stand up there and read with those guys I'd never make it."

Then, a roll of the drums and the band kicks into a swaggering arrangement of "Every Day I Have the Blues". As he swaps verses with Dianne Reeves, King is back in control, singing a song that he has performed perhaps thousands of times. With the reeds and brass surging behind him, he gives a blistering yet effortless rendition that many singers would achieve only once or twice in their career.

## Clive Davis meets the self-critical B.B. King, a man with a mission to see his brand of music kept alive

What keeps him running? Partly the sheer love of performing, but he also believes he has a duty to spread the word about his heritage.

"The blues hasn't always been accepted," he says. "It hasn't been given as much of an airing as jazz or rock 'n' roll. So I've always thought it was important to keep going out there. Now we've got the momentum, and there are young players like Robert Cray, I can ease up."

"To be black and a blues musician, that's like being black twice. When I was on tour in the Soviet Union they called me the 'Father of Jazz'. When I stopped to think about it, I really liked it, because the blues came first. I like to think of it as the mother tree. So I don't feel so bad about it now, but I used to."

King is a fixture on the international concert circuit. His current tour, for instance, is sponsored by the Philip Morris corporation, which has been funding a "Superband" series since 1985. He recently received the ultimate accolade of a cameo appearance on *The Cosby Show*. Yet life was not always so good. For the first half of his career he was largely confined to the unglamorous and low-paying network of black venues known as the "chitlin' circuit". With the advent of Tamba Mouton and Stax, his audience was dwindling away: young black Americans regarded blues music as an uncomfortable

and depressing reminder of hard times. The change came in the mid-1960s, when the blues revival amongst white rock musicians generated new interest in the pioneers.

Riley B. King was born on a Mississippi plantation in 1925 and spent his youth working as a labourer. In 1946 he set off for Memphis to find work as a musician, but after meeting with little success he returned home. In 1948 he tried again, and this time was given a ten-minute slot on a black music radio station. Part of his brief was to sing a jingle for a health tonic called Peptonin. He soon became known as "The Peptonin Boy", which evolved into "Beale Street Blues Boy", then "Blues Boy King", and finally the pithier B.B. King.

He returns to Mississippi each year for a weekend of free concerts. During the visit he catches up with childhood friends; some of them, he says, still work on the same plantation. He also gives frequent concerts in prisons. With such a schedule he spends little time at home in Las Vegas. When he does have a day or two to himself, his staff never know where to find him. "When I want to be on my own, I tell them I'm going to Hawaii. They know what that means: it means they won't know where to find me."

While he has made some excellent studio albums in his time, the stage is where he is at his most commanding. Many die-hard fans argue that his finest moment came on *Live At The Regal*, recorded in Chicago in 1964. In later years there were various attempts to re-package him for the mainstream market. Though purists were usually unimpressed, albums such as *Midnight Believer* — a collaboration with Will Jennings and Joe Sample — broadened the repertoire without undue compromises. King is re-united with Jennings and Sample on his new release, *There Is Always One More Time*. It is, he thinks,



King rehearsing in New York last week: at 66 he believes his latest album is his best

the best album he has ever recorded.

His voice and his ever-present guitar, Lucille, sound as formidable as ever. Critics have pointed out that Lucille's solos echo the human voice. Charles Sawyer, King's biographer, went further, reminding readers that, as a boy, King suffered from a stammer: "His melodic statements juxtapose long, plaintive notes with bursts of eighth notes, followed by long silences. The effect is like speech, when we hem and haw in frustration, looking for the right

words... All in all his playing is a supreme effort at clarity, marked by agonising doubts that he will succeed to make himself understood."

Self-doubt remains a component of King's personality. People, he says, always assume that he knows far more about music than he actually does. One of the remaining ambitions of this gracious and eloquent man, apart from recording an album of gospel tunes, is to find time to study music formally with a private tutor, or perhaps at a university.

"Really, I feel I'm pretty lucky. I was talking with James Moody and some of the guys just now about the times they were playing in '46 and '47. And I was telling them that in '47 I'd stopped ploughing. I left the plantation because I wanted to improve my life and do more for my family. I wasn't even sure that I wanted to be a musician. But since then, it's happened, and here I am."

B.B. King performs at the Albert Hall (071-589 3203) on Monday at 7.30pm.

## BRIEFING

## Consolation prizes

TOMORROW's opening of the Royal Ballet season may have been cancelled because of the musicians' dispute, but at least three of the dancers have something to celebrate: they have just picked up overseas awards. Leslie Edwards, whose career with the Royal began 58 years ago, has won the 1991 Lorenzo il Magnifico prize in Florence for his services to ballet; Italian-born Viviana Durante

has been awarded the Postano Prize in Italy; and Tetsuya Kamakawa won the Shimizu and Yoko Morishito prize in his native Japan.

## Last chance...

TIMBERLAKE Wertebaker's *Three Birds Alighting On A Field* is an absolute corker which exposes the lunacies of the international art scene. Harriet Walter heads a splendid cast in this shrewd and witty play. The extended run ends at the Royal Court Theatre (071-730 1745) on Saturday.

## TRANSFERS TO THE WEST END FOR 6 WEEKS ONLY AFTER SELL-OUT SUCCESS AT CHICHESTER

## 'UNQUESTIONABLY A CLASS ACT'

NATALIA MAKAROVA ROBERT POWELL  
"A 40-CARAT STAR... radiates an extraordinary erotic charge" GUARDIAN  
"ONE OF THE BEST PERFORMANCES OF HIS CAREER" CONFERENCES

TOVARICH  
A COMEDY BY JACQUES DEVAL  
ENGLISH VERSION BY ANTHONY WOODS  
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## RADIO REVIEW

## Over the sea, round the bend

When Fats Waller sang it, the word Columbus rhymed with integrity, which is another way of saying that they were all puffing their own books and slapping off everyone else's. Hunter himself has written a book about Columbus.

First up was the Antipodean mariner John Dyson, whose BBC 2 *Timewatch* last week proposed that the great admiral had sailed by a southerly route with a purloined map. Because it supplies a plausible and calculating context, this is a more exciting idea than the received tradition of a blind voyage straight into the setting sun, and Dyson's evidence — climate, a doctored log — was persuasive to this listener.

Not, however, to the historian Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, a man who sounds as though he has spent his whole life having none of this and none of that. "I'm not here tonight to pick nits, Hunter." Really? Fernandez-Armesto's diction can only be called Oxford Snaid.

This was particularly effective in seeing off Simon Wiesenthal, whose Columbus book proves that the great explorer was a Jew on the grounds that his religious consensus was "a mixture of Christian and Jewish belief". Drawing the entire world of learning into his nostrils, Fernandez-Armesto responded: "Columbus could have been a gerbil from Mars or a reincarnation of Elvis Presley's grandmother."

All this pales beside the anti-Columbus grenades that are currently being manufactured on behalf of the native American population. No one can do much for the population of Hispaniola, the first colony, since they all died out within 40 years of European landfall. Oddly enough, the writer Hans Köning, speaking from a studio in New York, swore that they had been "virtually decimated". If true, this must mean that a good 90 per cent would have had almost nothing to worry about.

MARTIN CROPPER

ARTS REVIEWS  
Opera, Concerts, Rock  
PAGE 18

CANDACE BAHOUTH'S

## HUNTING RUG

This wonderful tapestry was designed by Candace Bahouth as a kit to stitch. It is worked in half-cross or tent stitch using the yarn double on a 7 holes to the inch rug canvas. Many of these rugs will, one suspects, become wallhangings as it seems almost sacrilegious to put such a beautiful object on the floor.

Inspired by medieval mille-fleurs tapestries the rabbit and huncher are in soft biscuit and oatmeal shades; the monkey and squirrel in rust and nut; and the falcon and pheasant are a combination of these colours with hazy green, raspberry and yellows as well. The flowers, all old English varieties which would have grown wild in the middle ages, are in subdued tones of ochre, blue, strawberry, off-white, dappled moss and slate grey. The dark background is a mixture of indigo and veridian, and the overall effect of these colours is as you would expect in a medieval tapestry. Surrounding the carpet is a wonderfully rich border of fruit, berries, leaves, nuts and patterned geometric motifs.

Measuring 39 1/2 in x 55 1/2 in the canvas comes printed in full colour, along with all the required tools from the Appleton tapestry range, a needle and stitch instruction leaflet. The complete kit costs £300.00 which includes postage and packing. Use FREEPOST — no stamp needed.

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Liz Smith reports from Paris, where the lingerie look is being shown in sheer fabrics and as lacy accessories to a longer silhouette

## The long and the short and the tulle

**W**ill Paris fashion survive the slump? The answer is yes, both in terms of the recession, as well as the slithering downward dip in hemlines that is being seen at the shows this week. The slowing of sales of clothes has provided Paris's businesslike designers with the opportunity to increase their market share at the expense of weaker rivals elsewhere.

The Parisians themselves show no sign of a fashion recession and the branché shops in the fashionable streets around Saint Germain are crammed with women in search of the curvy jackets and stretchy dogtooth Lycra (short) skirts that are this winter's uniform. Paris's hottest new boutique is the one that was opened two weeks ago on the avenue Montaigne by Inès de la Fressange, the former Chanel model.

And the collapse of the hemline? The longer skirts that merely veil the legs in a flutter of chiffon, shown by Karl Lagerfeld in his own collection, are pretty substantial evidence of a trend downwards. In the Chanel show, Mr Lagerfeld hobbled his models with long, skinny skirts worn with ankle socks and golfing shoes or teeteringly high cork platform sandals. He carved the CC logo on to tree trunks in his wooden *Midsummer Night's Dream* mock-up, but strayed too far into the fashion woods by dispensing with Chanel's signature gold buttons. The white shirts and collar and cuff detailing that has cropped up in many collections (including the Lagerfeld line and Gaultier) reappeared at Chanel, with shirts knotted over chiffon evening dresses and layered between T-shirt and jacket. Black and white braided Chanel jackets, worn with long, flounced ballerina skirts and the classic suit remade in towelling for the beach, were among the many successful re-runs of everybody's favourite Chanel style.

Jean-Paul Gaultier laid down Astroturf, set up a backdrop of striped awnings and, to the soundtrack of *My Fair Lady*, sent out wacky hats worn with everything from back-laced corset dresses, leather jackets and pedal-pushers to pin-striped trouser suits. Every current "street" look that Gaultier has created was there, from corsets to the layering of stretchy skirts over leggings. His latest invention, a "miracle" jacket, with no fastenings but a hidden metal frame that grips the waist looks too uncomfortable to become fashionable.

Christian Lacroix closed the style gap between his haute couture and ready-to-wear lines, encrusting bright jackets with lace or embroidering just the cuffs. Regatta-striped blazers and gingham-checked cotton piqué jackets are worn with high-waisted white trousers and a peaked cap.

Valentino's collection of long, pleated silk skirts in spots, flowers and ribbon prints was the prettiest



Layered in lace: Valentino's ribbon-printed silk top with lace skirt and overskirt, carried by the model

and the most wearable of all. He gave the models the opportunity to do an elegant striptease, unbuttoning the skirts to provide more than a glimpse of matching lace-banded shorts and lingerie dresses. Picasso inspired Valentino's white graphic shapes appliqued on to blue and white linen dresses, and jackets over white trousers. Matisse provided Givenchy's splashy, colourful prints in a collection that looked like a reprise of many of the classics shown in the exhibition, which opened at the Palais Galliera last night, celebrating his 40 years in fashion.

Chiffon, along with the more sculptural — but equally sheer — organza and tulle, is the stuff of the

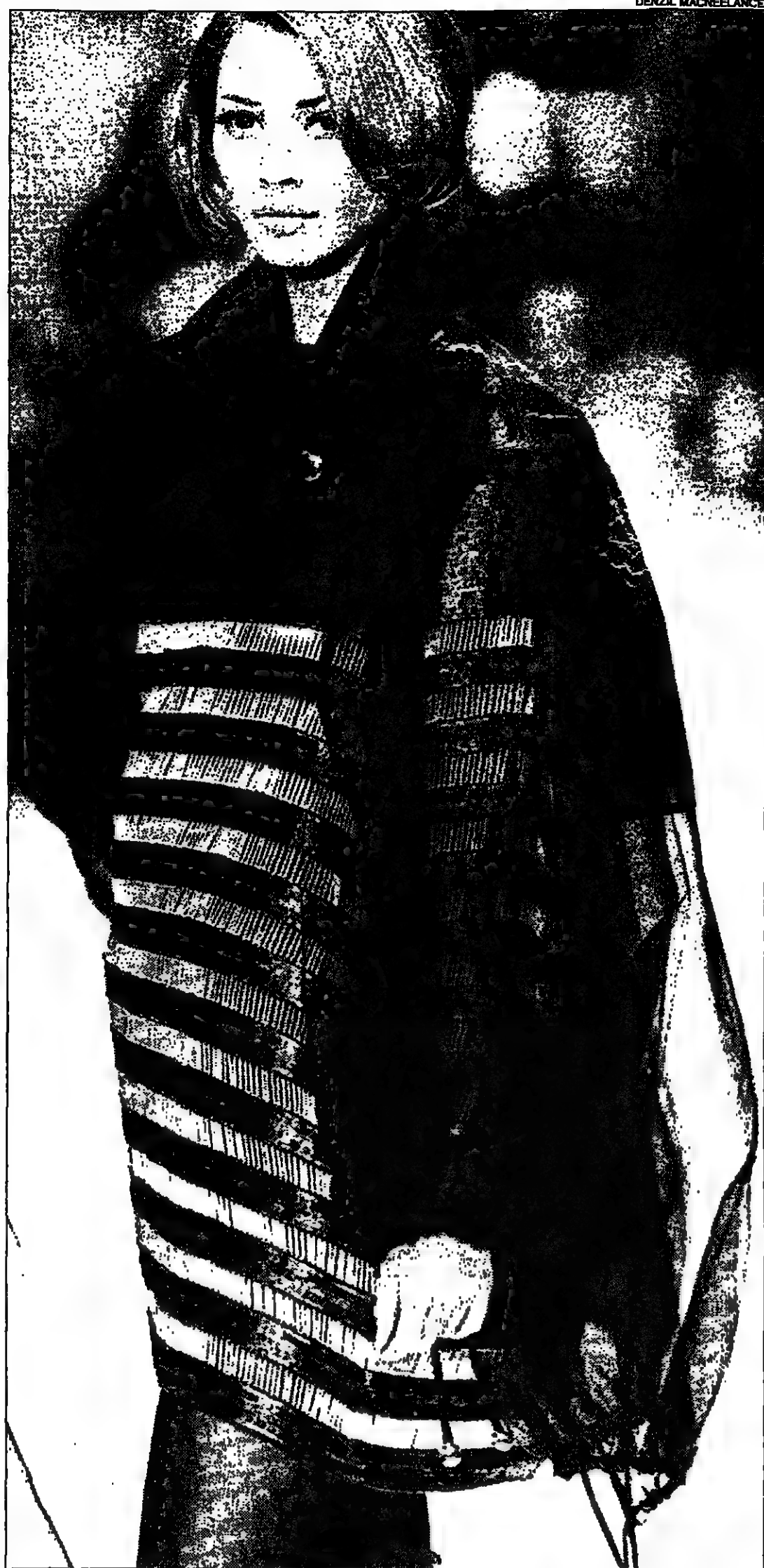
season, used by every designer for fluid little dresses and fluttering skirts. Crochet work and lace are inset into dresses and jackets or used for entire sleeves. The lingerie look of underwired bras (what the French endearingly call le balconnet), corset top and slip dresses, pioneered by Mr Gaultier and worn by Madonna, runs through every collection.

**K**enzo has invented the tailored balconnet suit, with a bra-shaped inset at the front of an otherwise normal, double-breasted jacket. Claude Montana, however, captured a lighter mood in a superb collection of sculpted dipping skirts, narrow trousers, blaz-

ers — even trenchcoats — in gossamer organza, chiffon and tulle, in delicious shades of Indian pink, sharp yellow and clear as well as navy blue.

Such lightweight fashion ideas may set the tone for a season but do not add up to a new outfit for most women, as designers here know. The look is held together by a jacket, either long and close-fitting or a cropped bolero.

In collection after collection sarongs, cut to swoop asymmetrically from short to long and skinny long skirts slit to the thigh, or unbuttoning to reveal shorts or a brief band of silk and lace, offer women the option of sticking to a neat, short line, while experimenting with a longer length.



Sheer charm: Claude Montana's bugle bead and sequin dress, with a tulle and organza drawstring jacket

## Bound to win the Booker

How six designer bookbinders have interpreted the Booker Prize shortlist

**T**his evening, six authors in search of the Booker will congregate amid the worthy and the shiny to hear which of them has emerged triumphant. On television, we see the winner accept a cheque for £20,000.

What may not be popularly known is that the winner — in common with the five runners up — also receives a hand-bound copy of his or her novel. In past years, this "consolation" prize has been viewed as rather less than consoling, but this year for the first time the bindings will be works of art created by six members of Designer Bookbinders — the principal society in Britain devoted to the craft of hand bookbinding.

These "designer bindings" are as different from the standard article as Brighton Pavilion is from a Portakabin. For example, Philip Smith's binding for Timothy Mo's *The Redundancy of Courage* (based on the guerrilla war in East Timor) is covered in bright red ostrich skin, with swirls of peckering, while the upper one-sixth is light blue with a drift of tiny white semi-circles over an abstract landscape; a brown out-pouring of what is intended to be effluent courses down the spine. The pages of the text have been occasionally over-printed with "blood splashes" while a simulated bullet hole passes through the book, an actual bullet projecting through the front cover.

Designer binders are led by the content of the book, whereas in commercial publishing it is not unusual for the



Work of art: Lou Smith shows William Trevor's green, goatskin-covered copy of *Two Lives*

designer of the dust-wrapper never to have so much as glanced at the text. James Brockman has approached Roddy Doyle's rude, comical and seedy novel *The Van* in a typically vigorous manner: the painted calf binding is overlaid with miniature sculptures of salvaged van parts in plastic and rusting metal, and the flyleaves are splattered with simulated greasy breakfast stains. The edges of the book? Patterned with tyre tread.

Such tours-de-force are all the more remarkable for having been completed within so short a time — unbound sheets of the novels were delivered to each of the binders on September 25, the day after the announcement of the shortlist. Lou Smith, an American-born binder, considers herself fortunate "because none of us knew which book we would receive, and of the four new novels I had read, only William Trevor's *Reading Turgenev* [one of two novels in *Two Lives*] was shortlisted —

and that is the title I was given". During her 30 years as a professional bookbinder, Ms Smith has produced more than 200 "designer bindings", but has never before had to read, ponder, design and bind a book in less than a month. "The actual binding took 15 working days: there was hardly time to eat." The result is in dark green goatskin to complement the book's semi-rural setting, with vertical panels in shades of green, blue and grey, the back cover being the reverse of the front.

**M**any people imagine that binding a book is simply decorating the cover of an existing trade edition; in reality, each signature — or section — must be hand-sewn, and the boards (hard covers) must be made up. Angela James prepared the boards in advance of the shortlist announcement, but left any thought of design until Ben Okri's *The Famished Road* was in her hands. She

has treated this atmospheric book about a Nigerian child in bands of black Nigerian goatskin fading to grey, and dark yellow goatskin bleached to white; enlivened by strips of orange and two raised bands on the spine covered in turquoise sheepskin. Jeff Clements, responsible for *Such a Long Journey*, Robinson Mistry's first novel, has gone for Morocco leather in black, red-brown and light blue, a single grey line traversing the back cover from head to tail, symbolising an estrangement between father and son central to the narrative. For *Time's Arrow*, by Martin Amis, Jenni Grey incorporates vellum, leather, rosewood and brass in clear geometric shapes, a triangular clasp forming an arrowhead. Never mind which author triumphs tonight: in the eyes of Designer Bookbinders, each title is bound to be a winner.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

Diary, page 15

There'll only be two Banks in fashion this winter. (Jeff's the other one.)

If you'd like a leaflet to apply for tickets to the BBC's Clothes Show Live at the NEC, 7-12 December, call in at any branch of Lloyds Bank, or ring the ticker hotline on 021 780 4133.

Alternatively, you can watch Jeff Banks co-host a special live edition of The Clothes Show programme on 8th December.

Either way, you'll be there, not square.



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HAIRWAY



# Only hatred in common

Suspicion of the Middle East talks is uniting all parties, says Richard Beeston

Until this week Bob Lang and Najib Farraj would have scoffed at the idea that they had much in common. True, both men live just three miles apart, separated only by the terraced Judean hills south of Bethlehem, and both are professionals aged 33. But any suggestion that they might be neighbours infers a kinship which ignores the enormous political, social and religious chasm which divides their lives and their rival communities.

Mr Lang, who emigrated to Israel from a prosperous Jewish American family in New Jersey, is a prominent figure in the settlers' movement, whose objective is to colonise and annex the territories occupied by Israel after the 1967 six-day war. Their goal is to create a greater Israel, incorporating the ancient Biblical lands of Judea and Samaria, known today as the West Bank. Mr Lang lives with his wife and young son in the model Jewish settlement of Efrat, which, were it not for the armed guards at the gate and the protective metal grilles over the car windcreens, could be mistaken for a middle class suburb in California.

Mr Farraj, on the other hand, enjoys no such amenities in his cinder block home at the Deheishe refugee camp just down the road, which compares unfavourably with many of South Africa's grimmest townships. A visitor might mistake the squalid homes and unpaved streets for a prison because they lie in the shadow of a 20 ft high corrugated iron and metal fence erected by the Israeli authorities to prevent stone throwing, in addition to a turnstile gate, which helps the nearby army post control access to the camp.

Mr Farraj, a local newspaper journalist, was born into the midst of conflict and his life story is of a constant, losing battle against Israeli authority. With the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 his parents lost their home and became refugees, first under Jordanian rule, then under Israeli. At the last count he had been arrested 20 times by the army for alleged involvement in helping to organise the *Intifada*. He denies he is a leading activist, but gladly admits that he is prepared to resist indefinitely Israeli occupation of territory he believes should be an independent Palestinian state.

On the face of it, in spite of their rival claims to the same piece of land, both settler and refugee might reasonably hold out some hope that the talks planned for next week in Madrid could bring peace. The prospect of ending one of the last central conflicts of the post-war world was, which has already sparked four major regional wars, should at least have been met with some encouraging response from the very people it is designed to help. The talks, however unpromising, offer hope of reconciling a problem that has

dragged on for 40 years. But this breakthrough has brought no Berlin-style street parties or celebrations. What has become abundantly clear in the aftermath of state James Baker's peace talks is that neither side actively wants to participate in the conference. Neither Palestinians nor Israelis are convinced that any good will come of it and most suspect the negotiations will, at best, break down inconspicuously early on.

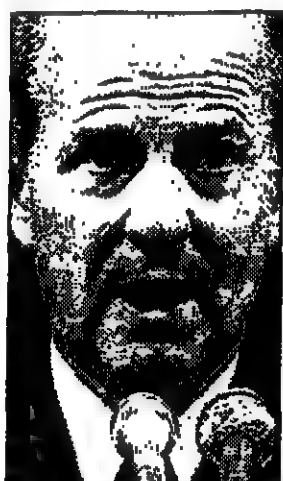
Although Mr Lang and Mr Farraj might represent the radical extremes of their respective communities, their views nonetheless enjoy considerable support among two races fighting over the same piece of scrappy land. Both peoples suspect that their leaders only agreed to talk because they feared incurring the wrath of the last remaining superpower.

"Under the present conditions, what we are being asked to attend will be more like an international lynching than a peace conference," says Mr Lang, who led Palestinian protests against Mr Baker when he visited Israel last week.

"If there is a peace conference the script is already written, whether in stages or in one giant leap they want us to give back Judea, Samaria, Gaza and east Jerusalem. We must say, Israel is not coming to your roasting. We are not going to be turned on the spit with an apple in our mouth." If Mr Farraj believed that this was the offer on the table, he would gladly embrace the prospect of dialogue but as a Palestinian who has witnessed Arabs defeated time and time again on the battlefield, and at the negotiating table, he insists that no dialogue is possible until the rights of the Palestinians to a state and their own representatives is guaranteed. "If we are forced to attend this event under the present circumstances then our absence would be preferable," he says.

In a region which has known little peace since the first world war, their suspicions that Madrid will turn into a conference of the deaf are well-founded. Nonetheless, it is a sad reflection on the state of two communities in conflict that the young, educated leaders of tomorrow who plan to bring up their families side by side cannot see the value of compromise.

Mr Baker succeeded in pulling off a diplomatic coup by bringing together some of the most uncompromising figures of the region, particularly Mr Shamir and President Assad. But he has a long way to go to overcome a credibility gap with the people whose reactions could ultimately determine the fate of his entire mission. His tireless seven-month effort has succeeded in making Mr Lang, Mr Farraj and thousands of others in both communities agree on one thing: the absolute rejection of his peace conference.



Mr Baker: credibility gap

Janet Daley bemoans the passing of the cheap and cheerful Bohemian life in the capital

# London grows grim

regular income, we were able to get an affordable flat by ourselves with little difficulty.

Because we both had creative ambitions, we chose not to get full-time jobs but to piece together a small income on which we could manage. It was perfectly feasible then to be unmortgaged and without a car and to feel that you were at the heart of what London was about.

Nothing Hill and Camden Town are still full of young people who look as if they aspire to *la vie bohème* but they seem, from my own impressionistic research, to fall into two categories: there are the drug trade basket cases who either collect benefits or survive on street culture, and there are the children of the rich who will play for a few years at being impoverished.

Both of these lifestyles seem to me artificial (which is to say supported by other people, either parents or the state). They are not viable existences in the way that

ours was before it was swept away in the early 1970s.

A number of events combined to destroy London as a centre for the intellectual poor. The first was the Labour government's Rent Act, which effectively eliminated private rented accommodation at reasonable prices. The second was the property boom of 1970-71. In combination, they meant that it was, quite suddenly, impossible to live in London on a low, and especially an irregular, income.

If you were of the poor working class, your significance as part of a political power base was valuable enough to set in motion a rescue programme of social service ministrations. The Labour party, in its Trotskyist local government incarnation, set about making the "inner city" its own fiefdom.

But if you wanted to lead an independent, self-supporting life with little interest in material aggrandisement but a lot of high-brow leisure, you were finished. As London became a place where

only the indigenous wealthy or the naive tourist amused himself, all of the facilities that had sustained our milieu evaporated. Cheap restaurants and working men's "caffs" were undermined by high rates, ludicrous property values and the fact that their custom was disappearing. Concert and theatre tickets gave themselves up to the tourist and "yuppie" markets. Secondhand bookshops expired when the leases came up on inflated prices on their shop sites and their rates went through the roof (to help pay for all those social services on the council estates).

A regional survey out this week puts the southeast at the bottom of its "quality of life" index, by comparing cost of living with pay scales. The price of living in London is now, it suggests, quite out of line with the earnings of the people who live there. Of course, it is absurd to measure the quality of people's lives strictly in terms of income and expenditure (as ev-

idenced by the fact that the report, by Reward, the market research company, puts Northern Island at the top of its "quality of life" league). But there are other pointers, such as London University's difficulties in recruiting students from other parts of the country because they cannot afford to live in London. In the 1960s, London was a marvellous place to be a student. Not only could you survive on a grant but cultural life was accessible too.

What we have lost through a succession of stupidly dogmatic urban policies (Labour's on housing, the Tories on transport) is a city in which artists and writers - creative chancers of all kinds - can lead sustainable lives. What is left is a Mecca for rip-off merchants. Overpriced property, which is rented at inflated prices when it cannot be sold, exorbitant restaurants, public transport on which it is impossible to depend and a cultural infrastructure which lives on tourism and corporate hospitality.

Dr Johnson might insist that I am simply tired of life, but to me it seems more that London no longer has space for the life I need to live.

# A Hungarian rhapsody

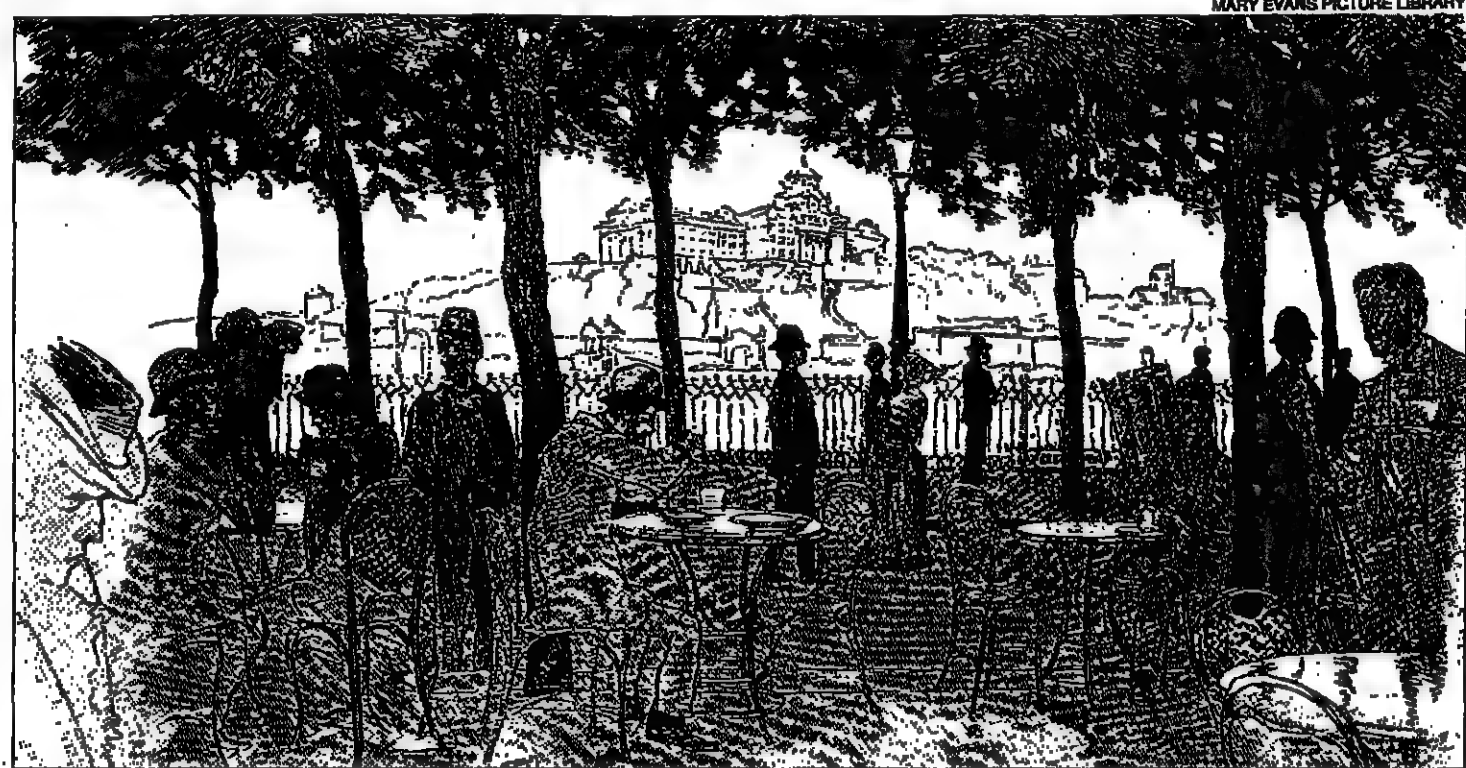
Woodrow Wyatt experiences the excitement of a free Budapest

In my five-day stay in Budapest I knew I was at the rebirth of a great nation. Smaragdine old buildings, flooded both sides of the Danube, showed Budapest has reclaimed the title of the Paris of central Europe. So did the verve of the Hungarians, revelling in their new freedoms.

Dr Csaba Gelényi, aged 35, at the Hungarian State Property Agency, showed me his green telephone set with two rows of switches. To call internally, locally, outside Budapest or internationally he depends on this ancient, time-wasting contraption. He is at the sharp end of privatising the commerce and industry the communists let decay. Telecommunications is a prime candidate for disposal and foreign telephone companies are interested.

The State Property Agency has a tiny staff of 130. Hungary is in a hurry. Ninety days are allotted from the first examination of proposals to the awarding of a contract. This includes valuing the assets (which may be of minus worth) without Western style balance sheets. Total buyouts by foreign investors, who get a five-year tax holiday, are preferred.

Swedish Electrolux bought the refrigerator manufacturer; the government chocolate making went to Swiss Nestlé; the government-owned pharmaceuticals company went to the French company Sanofi. British American Tobacco (BAT) has bought 100 per cent of the state monopoly in all tobacco and cigarette production, unhampered by the anti-smoking fanatics who plague us. Altogether, privately-owned businesses, large and small, now comprise 30 per cent of the gross national product. The chief resistance is from the old communist-installed managements,



Paris of central Europe: the old, confident Budapest is returning as communism becomes a memory and Hungarians adopt the enterprise culture

who rightly fear death to their cosy, lazy, subsidised, loss-making activities.

There have been hitches. Thus, the state travel agency, was floated on Budapest's infant stock exchange and its shares were soon at a high premium above the issue price. They now stand below it. Ibusz overreached itself, forgetting its monopoly would cease to be protected from bustling new Hungarian entrepreneurs. Ikarus makes good, solid buses which were sold abroad at a loss for hard currency and to the Soviet Union for oil. On privatisation, no longer subsidised, Ikarus nearly collapsed until the Russians, who badly need its buses, acquired 30 per cent of it.

The government is criticised for going too slow in shedding run down assets but it must retain temporarily such items as outdated steel plants and coal mines, which nobody would buy, because the employment of whole towns and districts rests on them. Much hope of quick returns centres on

new businesses being created by the energetic young not infected by slothful communist ways. VAT is 25 per cent and inflation has only now steadied at 35 per cent. Businesses must add some 50 per cent to their wage bills to pay for social security. So everyone cuts their taxes, either by evasion or by unrecorded second jobs or both.

A taxation is very recent, there is, luckily, no sophisticated machinery for collecting it. The government is helpless as under its nose a thriving black economy emerges with a real chance of making Hungary advance on Italian lines.

Alarmingly, the old communist trade union bosses still control three million trade union members only a handful choose other unions. There are no rules on strike ballots and no supervision of union elections. As Mrs Thatcher realised, the law must tame unruly unions if solid

progress is not to be thwarted. This has not yet occurred to the Hungarian government. Fortunately, there are six main parties in parliament. The largest, Democratic Forum, has made a coalition with the cranky Independent Smallholders Party and the Christian Democrats in order to govern therefore the government is weak from internal quarrels. Consequently, governments will be unable to prevent the people doing what they think best for themselves any more than Italian governments can - and never mind the morals. Because the black economy will produce far more wealth than the official, true morality is on its side.

Ostensibly, the great majority still employed by state concerns are worse off because of the inability of the government to raise their wages to match inflation. Actually, even now, with the multitude of unrecorded second jobs they are not doing badly. From old, cheap cars produced by the erstwhile communist coun-

tries to the masses of Mercedes smuggled in without tax, the roads in Budapest and in the country are thronged with motors.

Hungarians point out to you at the airport the numerous aircraft owned by the new rich. There is more admiration than envy for them, plus an ardent ambition among the young to catch up. A former waiter sold out his one-hour film developing business, Fotex, so successfully that he is now developing a 37-acre complex of houses for diplomats. Laura Kitty, the clothes designer, offers quality wares, fashionable by any standards and at bargain prices, and is building herself a fine new country house.

By hook and by crook ingenious, hard-working Hungarians will make their country richer than the rest of the old communist empire but it will be very rough going for many, particularly the older, on the way. Hungarians tend to be wildly optimistic or deeply pessimistic: the former are more likely to be right.



...and moreover  
**CRAIG BROWN**

Just as there are odd words on board, once taken on board, have a bizarre habit of recurring, so it is with people. I remember precisely where it was when I first heard the name Beverly Nichols. It was the summer of 1977, and I was staying with friends in Venice. We were having a drink at a pavement café when his name was mentioned. "Who," I asked. "You've never heard of Beverly Nichols?" For the next few minutes, they filled me in on who he was, some arguing that he was alive, others that he was dead.

Half an hour later, the most curious thing happened. From out of nowhere, a beggar appeared, croaking his way through a song. In one hand he held a cap, in the other a grubby page of sheet music. He sang with that peculiar combination of vigour and atrociousness that encourages cash payment. As we dug shallow into our pockets, one of our party noticed the title on the top of the music. It was *Dancing with the Daffodils* (1938), and its composer was Beverly Nichols.

Sure enough, a week or two after this incident, his name cropped up once more. Someone said that Beverly Nichols was a dandy. Mishearing, I thought they were linking him with the actress Dandy Nichols. "So Beverly and Dandy Nichols were married," I asked, to much guffawing.

Ever since then, his name has cropped up with bizarre regular-

ity. He is, by any standards, a minor figure in the panorama of the 20th century, yet, like some demented waiter bawling his way into a group shot of bigwigs, his name pops up in index after index, more often than not, alas, to be reviled on the appropriate page. I do not have a very extensive library, yet there he is, time and time again, squeezed between Nicholas, Tsar and Nicolson. Harold or, in the case of Diana Mosley's *Loved Ones* between the *News of the World* and Nietzsche.

Last week, I was reading Auberon Waugh's breath-takingly funny autobiography, *Will This Do?*, and there he was again, sandwiched between Newton, Andrew Gino and Nicolson. Soon, I found his name in virtually every book I chose to pull off my shelves. On May 30, 1966, Barbara Pym's diary finds her reading Nichols' defence of Syrie Maugham. "Made me laugh," she concludes. "It might be a joke, a pastiche of the 20s written by Sandy Wilson." A year later, on May 26, 1967, Joe Orton records reading the same book: "Quite ridiculous." Ten pages later in the Orton Diaries, Nichols turns up again, but with no rise in popularity. "Nigel popped in briefly and confessed to finding Beverly Nichols 'a silly wet queen'."

Twenty years before, on May 21, 1944, Evelyn Waugh records in his diaries that "a nervous wreck named Beverly Nichols has arrived. Not a man of strong understanding. A mercenary,

hypochondriacal, flibbertigibbet who doesn't take in one of six words addressed to him." In Christopher Sykes' biography of Waugh, there he is again on page 499, arriving at a house party with Edward Molyneux, the dress-designer. Of Molyneux, Waugh says: "I believe he makes blouses for women, doesn't he?" Sykes records how Beverly Nichols felt this to be an "unpardonably snobbish" remark, and never forgave him.

Having effected entry into all memoirs of the time, poor old Beverly always seems to be the butt. Diana Mosley mentions him only to record a gag at his expense by Lord Berners. "When Beverly Nichols, author of *Down the Garden Path*, visited Farringdon and went into ecstasies over the grape hyacinths, Gerald said 'Oh, I told the gardener not to plant those nasty little flowers' and rubbed them out with his foot."

In Richard Boston's biography of Osbert Lancaster, Nichols appears on page 53 as the possessor of "a toy rabbit called Cuthbert" but he rates no further mention. In Paul Fussell's *Abroad*, he is actually quoted ("I shall never forget my first sight of the Queen of Romania") though only for a laugh. Beverly Nichols confided to his diary in 1956 that he had "a shrewd idea" he would be remembered in a hundred years. My mass of encounters with him lends me a shrewd idea he might be right, though perhaps not in quite the way he would have expected.

# Bookered for dinner

NICHOLAS Mosley is to attend tonight's award ceremony for the Booker prize, despite his earlier decision to resign as a judge.

Mosley vowed to boycott the black-tie event at Guildhall, London, as part of his protest last month at the exclusion from the shortlist of the Alan Massie novel, *The Sins of the Fathers*.

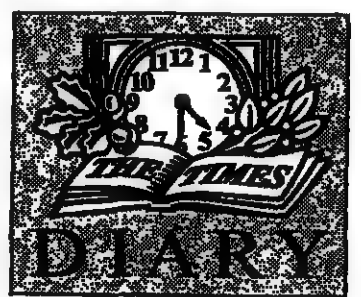
But Mosley, who became embroiled in an unseemly row with Booker over whether he should be paid his £2,500 fee, had a change of heart yesterday. He telephoned Martyn Goff, the administrator of the Booker prize, to see if he was still welcome.

Mosley says: "I had thought it would be like a ghost turning up at the party. But people have been so nice about it all. The Booker people seemed to intimate that they would like it if I turned up. It seemed churlish not to."

Mosley will be sitting at a table hosted by Sir Waterstone, the book-seller, safely out of spitting distance of the other judges. He plans to keep a low profile. "I am a guest," he says. "Having resigned, it would be very bad form for me to start airing my views. I won't be making a speech."

Jeremy Treglown, the chairman of the judges, who last month alleged that Mosley had no objections to novels "filled with clichés" was, by a happy coincidence, yesterday, "I'm delighted Nicholas will be at the dinner. It's a happy ending. I'm just sorry that he won't be on the panel."

Auberon Waugh, the editor of the *Literary Review*, says: "I admire Nicholas for playing it so long. Anyone who is prepared to suffer the Booker food must be a hero. I always avoid the evening for that reason."



But perhaps the real reason Mosley has decided to sit down to a dinner of smoked salmon, followed by asparagus in pastry, and fillet of beef, with 350 other guests is the fact that Booker has finally decided to pay him. He says: "I am going to spend the money on a Christmas holiday with my family in the sun."

Why did Virgin's US liquor licence take seven years to be granted? Because Richard Branson, the airline's chairman, was fined £5 for attempted poaching by Sir Edmunds magistrates when he was eighteen. At yesterday's Institute of Directors lunch in the Aviation Club in Pall Mall, Branson admitted that he had been caught by a gamekeeper. But how did the Americans know?

Major minor?

SO John Major really is the originator of the citizen's charter after all. When the prime minister launched his "big idea" this summer, opponents were swift to accuse Major of stealing their clothes. Neil Kinnock claimed Labour thought of it first; Paddy Ashdown was adamant that rights for citizens was long-standing Liberal Democrat policy.

Now it can be told. Major was ahead of all of them - by more than 500 years. According to The

Swordbearer, a new biography by Stewart Lamont of John Knox, the Scottish Calvinist, the early John Major, who taught in Paris from 1525 to 1531 before returning to Scotland, was a strong influence on Knox. Major, says Lamont, "belonged to the old world of the medieval schoolmen who argued in propositions which were proved in logical manner". The style sounds a little dull - dare one say even grey - but distinctly familiar. More to the point, Major's great work dealt with the legitimate rights of citizens against rulers", although he "had little appetite for revolution".

Crunch for MPs

IF the saying "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" is true, MPs should be healthy for a week. Almost one ton of English apples was devoured at the Commons yesterday as the MPs' contribution to National Apple Day.

A wide selection of the 6,000 varieties of English apple were

served up in every conceivable way in Parliament's 24 bars, restaurants and cafeterias. Stuffed apples, apple turnovers, apple pie and cream, roast pork and apple sauce and apple pâté were among the most popular dishes.

In the MPs' dining room, the guest wine was Royal Cider brewed in the cider museum at Hereford, the constituency of Colin Shephard the Tory chairman of the catering committee. "We have entered into the spirit of National Apple Day with gusto and there is no doubt about it, Parliament is promoting the apple," says the MP.

MPs who return to their constituencies today until the Queen's speech at the end of the month, will be reunited with the leftovers when they come back. "They will be turned into apple crumbles and put in the freezer," says a catering department spokesman.

The BBC critics could not understand the silence after their rendition of Warsaw, You're the Most Beautiful City in the World, at a Warsaw concert. No one had told them that the piece was composed in the days of Stalin, and was a favourite of Polish communists.

Stage stuck

WHILE the lights may be going down at Covent Garden, the English National Opera is spreading its wings. The company has flown in to rescue the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, which was left with a hole in its Christmas season after faulty hydraulic stage machinery scuppered Sir Peter Hall's production of *Peter Grimes*.

Peter Jonas, the ENO's general director, is the forthcoming "intendant" of the Bavarian State Opera - he starts in 1993 - and was aware of his future employer's problem. The ENO's production of *Peter Grimes*, premiered in April this year, does not require hydraulics. Jonas offered to lend it and the Bavarians accepted gratefully. "It's a very good news for the ENO," says a spokeswoman. "The production is on hire so it should help towards the financial strain."







## PENSION PRIORITIES

There are two classes of pensioner. The first comprises elderly people who are realising the dream of a comfortable retirement. They enjoy an occupational or state earnings-related pension scheme. They own a house, usually mortgage-free and invariably worth far more than they paid for it. Their shares have gone up. Their building society accounts are paying positive real rates of interest, which have not been so high for so long since the late 19th century. Low inflation is now also protecting their savings. As the infirmity of extreme old age creeps on, they will be able to afford private residential care and nursing.

Those in the second class are far from comfortable. They were never in the kind of job that attracted a pension. They were not eligible for Serps. They did not, perhaps could not, save. They do not own their home. Wider social change, in particular the mobility that often separates generations, renders them dependent. In old age, they are thrown back entirely on state benefits.

That benefit has been limited this past decade. Margaret Thatcher changed the law so the basic pension rose only in line with prices, not (as under Labour) in line with whichever rose faster, prices or earnings. Yesterday, Tony Newton, the social services secretary, announced that pensions would rise by only 4.1 per cent in April. This is strictly in line with prices, but only because the falling interest has kept headline inflation down. For most pensioners, prices are rising faster than 4.1 per cent but they cannot complain too loudly. April 1991's 10.9 per cent increase in pensions outstripped the underlying rise in prices. The Exchequer is clawing back in this increase what it was forced to concede in the last.

Mr Newton went some way to recognise the two separate classes of pensioner. He made special provision for income support to disabled pensioners over 80, and to

pensioners in residential care. Income support, unlike general pension increases, targets those most in need. By comparison with the cost of the general increase, these measures are small beer, but they are a pointer in the right direction.

A pointer in the wrong direction came from Labour's Michael Meacher. He wants more for everyone and now. Poor pensioners and rich pensioners alike would benefit from the party's pledge to raise pensions, by £5 a week for the single pensioner and £8 for a couple. Poor pensioners and rich pensioners alike would benefit from its pledge to raise future pensions in line with whichever rises faster of earnings and prices. The very poorest could even be worse off, according to pensions experts. And the poor taxpayer will pay along with the rich, up to £25 billion more over 30 years.

Mr Meacher shares with Robin Cook with the health portfolio an inability to adhere to the discipline of his shadow Chancellor, John Smith, in matters of spending pledges. His is the policy of tax more, spend more, no matter who gains, and why worry who loses. Whoever wins the general election will have to think seriously about pensions. Does the flat rate pension make any sense? Should it be means-tested? Should expensive fiscal encouragement still be given to private pensions, or state subsidy to Serps?

Greater discrimination needs to be shown to pensioners in need, without discouraging saving for retirement. More generally, a balance needs to be struck between care for the elderly in cash, through the pension, and in kind, through communal services. Since Sir Norman Fowler's great review of 1985, the necessary debate about the elderly has been stuck in an exhausted coma. The priority must be to direct limited cash to those most in need, and to improve services for those too infirm to look after themselves.

## TURKEY LEANS WEST

Turkey's progress in democratic maturity is about to be put to the test. The third general election since the military coup of 1980 has produced an inconclusive result, heralding a period of coalition politics. Nato, of which Turkey is an important member, and the European Community, which Turkey implausibly applied to join in 1987, are both interested in the outcome. The rise of Muslim fundamentalism does not yet threaten Turkey's alignment with the West but it might presage a return to the instability of the 1970s. That could prompt yet another coup. The Turkish electorate has told the politicians to bury their differences. If they squabble, the army may bury the politicians.

There are now four big parties, each with between 17 and 27 per cent of the vote: hardly a recipe for strong government. The new prime minister, Süleyman Demirel, has achieved his ambition of ending the dominance of President Turgut Özal by humbling the Motherland party, the political vehicle which Mr Özal created for himself while the army banned his rivals (including Mr Demirel) from politics. Mr Demirel had to watch Mr Özal's rise under the junta, first in 1983 to the premiership, then in 1989 to the presidency after General Evren resigned this nominally apolitical job.

Yet the ideology of Mr Demirel's True Path party — pro-market, pro-Western, pro-nationalist — differs little from that of the Motherland government of the outgoing prime minister, Mesut Yılmaz, who is also 23 years younger than his successor. The two would be ideal coalition partners, but for the antagonism between Mr Demirel and President Özal. Despite the former's threats to impeach him, Mr Özal looks impregnable for the last five years of his term.

During this colourful, murderous and abusive election campaign, the opposition parties did little more than to denounce presidential nepotism while simultaneously offering bribes themselves — even free circumcision for the poor. The joker in the

pack is the Islamic fundamentalist Welfare party. Though the other parties lay claim to the secularising legacy of Kemal Atatürk, Welfare has forced its two right-wing rivals to compete for the Muslim vote.

Mr Demirel, an old-stager of 67, is unlikely to have devised new solutions. The vote for him was partly a protest against the heirs of the junta, partly a vote for competence. Motherland, despite its conservative rhetoric, had pursued inflationary policies with disastrous consequences for all classes. The Social Democrat Populists of Erdal İnönü were judged even less reliable on this score, but they may well become Mr Demirel's junior partner in a coalition.

A peaceful change of government is an achievement for a country whose form of government has lurched from weak coalitions to military strongmen ever since Atatürk. If Mr Demirel can build a broadly based administration, Turkey's Western course should continue. That course has transformed the country's economic prospects, even if inflation has rarely dipped below 50 per cent. Despite the spectacular fall of Asil Nadir, Turkish business is booming: growth last year was 9 per cent. With a population approaching 60 million, Mr Demirel must maintain this momentum.

Whatever the complexion of the coalition that emerges from this week's post-electoral horse-trading, the new government has to decide whether Turkey is a European state sloughing off its Asiatic past, or the westernmost outpost of the emergent Turkic nations of central Asia. Looking west is no longer the only option for Turkey. The Gulf war was a reminder of Turkey's strategic value to the West, a value that remains undiminished by the defeat of Iraq and the weakening of the Soviet empire. Ankara has been a loyal friend. In order to reassure allies in Nato and would-be partners in the EC, the Demirel government should move quickly to reinforce the Western course that has brought Turkey prosperity and security.

## PERILS OF PIMLICOING

The 400 citizens of Cleeve Prior near Evesham have succumbed to what Lord Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, once called the "Pimlico syndrome". He applied the term to "the Republic of Ciskei", a puppet state carved out by South Africa but recognised by nobody else. Likewise the residents of Cleeve Prior, a pretty Midlands village, are today declaring their independence of Whitehall and Westminster and indeed of Wychavon and Worcester. Passports will henceforth be demanded of visitors. A national flag has been designed. It is, in short, a jolly jape in a fine tradition of nonsense, along with crossing the English Channel in a bath tub or streaking at Lords.

It may be timely to remind Cleeve Prior, however, what happened to the last parcel of England which Pimlico-syndromed itself out of the Queen's realm. Not the actual Pimlico, for that whimsical insurrection was in 1949, and existed only as a filmic fantasy, *Passport to Pimlico*, which anyway was shot in Lambeth, on the other side of the Thames. The dare warning to Cleeve Prior is the Isle of Dogs in East London. It did a "Pimlico" in 1971, unilaterally proclaiming independence under "President" Ted Johns, a community activist. The island's UDI was a demand for something to happen before it went all the rest of the way to the dogs. And the stunt paid off a thousandfold. Canary Wharf, the largest something or other in Europe, duly soared into the sky. The Docklands Light Railway, the Limehouse Tunnel, *The Daily Telegraph*, all arrived panting on the Isle of Dogs, as did yuppies, double yellow lines, a building site as far as

the horizon in every direction, and billions upon billions of pounds of public and private money. Truly did the Isle's well-meant little Pimlico stunt turn into a sorcerer's apprentice of excess.

Admittedly Cleeve Prior's stunt is a Nimby ("Not in my back yard") kind of protest, whereas the sad and salutary tale above was a case of too much Nimby: "Please in my back yard". The villagers say they already have too many gypsies, something like 100 of them in caravans, and they oppose the intention of Wychavon district council to build a permanent gypsy caravan site. The gypsies are attracted by seasonal work in the market gardens of the Vale of Evesham; and the local authority has a legal duty to provide a proper site for them to live on. "Not that we dislike gypsies", say the Cleeve Priorites. "It's just that we think they should live somewhere else."

The Pimlico syndrome brings together the English liking for municipal whimsy and the "if only" of waking up to find oneself somebody else. *Passport to Pimlico* was an early Ealing comedy, which told how a parish of working-class London suddenly found itself belonging to the Dukedom of Burgundy when a long forgotten document came to light. As the Isle of Dogs experiment showed, this is strong magic, not to be trifled with. The people of Cleeve Prior should brace against the possible discovery that they are all the foundlings of gypsies, all true-blooded Romanians themselves. So when, in answer to the Pimlico-syndrome spell, the village is declared gypsy-free, none of its citizens will be able to live in it.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Symptoms and remedies for health service 'malaise'

From Professor Emeritus  
Sir Douglas Black

Sir, Privatisation (real or alleged), the status of trust hospitals and fund-holding by family doctors are important matters, but they are disagreeable symptoms and not the root cause of the malaise in the health service.

In responding to the financial strains imposed by adverse national demography and the (laudable) increase in what is medically possible, a remedy has been sought in increasing managerial power at the expense of the influence of doctors and nurses. Petty economies can no doubt be achieved, but only at some risk to the professional ethos which has helped to give us a comprehensive service at perhaps a third of the individual cost to citizens of the USA, many of whom are nevertheless devoid of health cover.

That we are now adopting some of their economic and managerial devices, at a time when they themselves are realising that "socialised medicine" and "a national service" are not synonyms, indicates our own confusion between what is needed to run a business and what to provide a service.

A contractual system is as inappropriate to a health service as it is to medical research and the sooner we can scrap it the better, with its army of accountants and behind them endless opportunities for litigation.

The health of a people depends predominantly on what is "given" genetically, socially and morally; but that is no excuse for failing to do what is possible for those who fall by the wayside, often through no fault of their own.

Care of the sick and handicapped will come from the dedication of professionals and lay people, largely in the community but also in institutions which are themselves a part of the community, not isolated entities as they are sometimes made to seem. Such a response will come from trust, not from a web of contracts.

Yours etc.,  
DOUGLAS BLACK,  
The Old Forge, Dursley Close,  
Whitchurch-on-Thames,  
Reading, Berkshire,  
October 18.

From Lord Bruce of Donington

Sir, Professor de Bono's confident assertion (October 10) that "it is obvious that no country could commit itself to a totally open-ended health budget" should surely provide an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our present order of priorities, particularly in view of the fact that there are many areas of public expenditure which are "demand led" without any cash limits being imposed on them.

It indeed should be obvious enough that the promotion of good health, bearing also in mind that there will always be unavoidable mental and physical illness outside human control, lies in the creation and encouragement of those social factors leading to a sense of positive "wellbeing" and to the discouragement of those which so frequently are the cause of the onset of illness.

Among the first category are the restoration of a positive purpose in living and the establishment of conditions in which a degree of personal serenity during significant periods of the day or week can be

achieved. Such a positive contribution needs, however, to be accompanied by increases in public expenditure on housing, on the progressive removal of urban squalor, on the relief of abject poverty, on the restoration of economic and financial policies aimed at full employment, on education and the deliberate support of all sporting activities.

May I therefore, as the sole survivor (albeit as a PPS) of the political team responsible for the introduction of the NHS in 1948, be permitted to say that the service itself, with subsequent overwhelming public support, was devised on the basis of the principles and aims I have ventured to outline above.

Yours sincerely,  
DONALD BRUCE,  
House of Lords,  
October 17.

From Dr P. D. Robertson

Sir, Professor de Bono states that we have sufficient data available to permit nationally agreed standards of care for defined common medical conditions. Is there not, also, sufficient information to allow accurate predictions of the amount of illness likely to be encountered in a health board area in a given period of time?

Publication of this information would permit health boards and the public to be accurately informed as to the funding needs of the NHS. Not that this would abolish debate, nor produce more money, but at least debate would be better informed.

Yours sincerely,  
P. D. ROBERTSON  
(Consultant physician),  
Calthness General Hospital,  
Wick, Calthness.

### When the system fails

From Dr A. C. Lamont

Sir, The combination of the citizen's charter and clinical budgeting in NHS hospitals brings with it a completely new and complex set of problems.

Previously, in our radiology department, ultrasound and fluoroscopy patients were block-booked for the beginning of a session. While this was time-efficient for the department, patients often had to wait quite a long time to be seen for their investigation.

We now have an appointment system, which is more convenient for patients and minimises waiting times. It is, however, not unusual for patients to fail to turn up for appointments. In a recent children's ultrasound session with 12 bookings, only one parent phoned to cancel (one hour before she was due); a further five just failed to attend.

Considerable expense is incurred by a department when staff and equipment stand idle. In the brave new NHS, where funding follows the patient, will fund-holding GPs and clinicians be prepared to under-

write expensive investigations which the patient fails to receive?

Yours faithfully,  
A. C. LAMONT  
(Consultant paediatric radiologist),  
The Leicester Royal Infirmary,  
Leicester LE1 5WW,  
October 10.

From Mr Chris Mullin, MP for  
Sunderland South (Labour)

Sir, On the day that I heard William Waldegrave tell the Tory party conference (report, October 11) that his written constitution for the NHS would guarantee "equal access to free health care throughout the country for everybody, regardless of their means", I was contacted by a constituent who has been waiting since September 1990 for an appointment with a consultant at Sunderland general hospital so that he can be examined with a view to a hip-replacement operation. He had just been told that he had not the slightest possibility of an audience with the great man until some time in 1992.

He then telephoned the consultant's office and asked how long he would have to wait if he saw the same man privately. He was told that for a fee of £45 he could be seen

the following Wednesday. If Mr Waldegrave sometimes wonders why his claims about the health service are not taken seriously by most people, I must put it to him that examples of this kind, which are a daily occurrence, do not help.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRIS MULLIN,  
House of Commons.

From Mr Lee Bridges

Sir, William Waldegrave has proclaimed as his "first and greatest health service commandment" that there should be "equal access to free health care throughout the country for everybody, regardless of means". This raises three logical possibilities:

1. That the government will end prescription charges for everybody.
2. That they will abolish the present exemptions from prescription charges so that everyone will be on an equal footing, regardless of means.
3. That Mr Waldegrave's speech and patient's charter are no more than empty political rhetoric.

Yours sincerely,  
LEE BRIDGES,  
124 Woodwarde Road, SE22,  
October 11.

### To each his own

From Mr Tom MacKean

Sir, The back-page photograph (October 15) of a cyclist bicycling down the Thames prompts me to write to you. My dog and I were disconcerted over the weekend while walking a remote rural footpath to be overtaken by six cyclists wearing plastic helmets.

As far as I am concerned footpaths are for walkers, bridleways are for horses, rivers are for boats and Britain's extensive road network is there for the use of motorists and those who ride bicycles. As for mountains, they are best reserved for lofty contemplation from a safe distance unless being climbed (on foot) by the dedicated few.

Can readers suggest non-violent means of keeping bicycle wheels safely on the Tarmac or am I just being intolerant?

Yours indignantly,  
TOM MACKEAN,  
St Margaret's Priory,  
St Margaret's Lane, Titchfield,  
Farnham, Hampshire,  
October 15.

### A matter of choice

From Dr Barbara Goodwin

Sir, Lord Moynie (October 14) compared hereditary and lottery for membership of the House of Lords. However, he advanced no argument in support of his proposition that hereditary is "perhaps a better method", and I would urge that selection by lot is better. Hereditary winners are drawn from a small and untypical sample of our population; under rule of succession which ensure that a male will always be selected ahead of a female of identical descent; and they hold office for life, so that the membership of the upper House has an age profile

### Cancer mouse

From Mr Terry Robinson

Sir, I was shocked and saddened to read of the breeding of a mouse ("Patent granted for cancer mouse", October 15) whose sole function in its pathetic life is to develop cancer and die. Is there no end to the lengths to which mankind will go in its search for profit?

This year we breed a mouse guaranteed to develop cancer, next year perhaps a monkey guaranteed to incubate some other disease, followed by a genetically engineered "humanoid" for experimental purposes. An Orwellian tale fantasy? I wonder.

I suggest to the European Patents Office that the only one qualified to hold a patent on life itself is Almighty God. Why does the Christian church appear to always remain silent over such abuse of the trust Our Lord put in us as stewards of His planet?

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,  
TERRY ROBINSON,  
Rustling Pines, Foxwood Lane,  
Woodborough, Nottingham,  
October 17.

which could commend itself only to the Chinese (ancient and modern).

Selection by lot for limited periods of service escapes all these objections. It has been used with success, not only in the Athens of old but in medieval Venice and Florence. I understand that Charter 88 have now decided to select 12 members of their council by lot. The theoretical justification may be as old as Aristotle, but it is as relevant to our age as to any other.

Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA GOODWIN,  
Brunel University,  
Department of Government,  
Uxbridge, Middlesex,  
October 15.

### Quality of judges

From Mr J. G. Bradshaw

Sir, It is surprising that after the pantomime across the Atlantic Mr David Pannick should support the view that the appointment of judges "should be a matter of public debate" ("Open this private club", October 16). He also seeks to perpetuate the myth of a judiciary remote from the public.

As most judges are appointed after 20 years or so of the rough and tumble of advocacy in which they meet a fair cross-section of the public, often in circumstances of extreme personal difficulty, the persistence of this view on the part of "progressive" lawyers is extraordinary.

The first appointment to judicial office is usually on the recommendation of those who know best the qualities of the person concerned, namely, the judges before whom he or she has appeared for many years and others in a position to make an evaluation. Promotion to higher judicial office then largely depends upon the profession's perception of how the appointee has performed.

The idea of appointment by a committee or commission including, as is now often suggested, lay members would lead to undesirable

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

### Paying the price of rail travel

From Mr D. R. Robertson

Sir, In 1931 I travelled from New York to Chicago on the Twentieth Century Limited, a train of which the company was rightly proud. It left New York in the evening, and was guaranteed to arrive by 9am the next morning. The guarantee took the form of a rebate on the price of the ticket of \$1 a minute if late.

The quality of service for most people is to arrive on time. Surely British Rail could make some similar rebate. It would also be a good advertisement.

Yours faithfully,  
D. R. ROBERTSON,  
Dover Cottage, Dennett Road,  
Bembridge, Isle of Wight,  
October 17.

From Mr Charlie Garton-Jones

Sir, In asserting that a rise in rail fares will worsen congestion in and around London, Richard Hope ("Trains take the financial strain", October 16) is taking a very short-term view.

By far the most serious road congestion occurs around London. Many parts of the Midlands, the North and Scotland are relatively untouched by the pleasures of gridlock jams and "draconian parking controls" that plague London.

The long-term solution lies in a greater spread of economic activity across the whole of Britain. Many firms have already relocated outside London, as the costs of doing business in the capital spiral, taking employees and hence commuters away from London; yet every pound of public money for British Rail slows this positive trend by distorting the real cost of congestion to companies in London.

Rail subsidies for London commuters may reduce road congestion in the short run; in the longer term they increase the problem.

Yours sincerely,  
CHARLIE GARTON-JONES,  
12a Broughton Place,  
Edinburgh,  
October 16.

From the Deputy Director of  
the British Road Federation

Sir, Richard Hope is right to extol the virtues of the Dutch government's policy of aiming to double rail passengers by the year 2005. He is wrong to suggest that this will prevent growth in road traffic; the Dutch are still expecting traffic to grow by at least 35 per cent over the same period.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD DIMENT,  
Deputy Director,  
British Road Federation,  
Pillar House,  
194-202 Old Kent Road, SE1,  
October 16.

### Teachers' pay awards

From Mr James Coen

Sir, The proposal by the National Association of Headteachers for a performance guide for pay staff awards (report, October 15) is disturbing.

Teachers will presumably be judged by the head or deputy head with whom they work throughout the entire year. Headteachers, however, will presumably be judged by inspectors who know them only slightly; the inspectors will not hear the opinions of members of staff who have seen their head at work, day in and day out.

Is it too revolutionary to suggest that the head be presented by his staff with a plan for his work during the year, to be agreed after discussion? If this worked out satisfactorily, the head could be rewarded either with increased pay, extra training or new responsibilities.

Teachers would greatly appreciate a system which applied not only to themselves but also to their managers.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES COEN,  
249 Westbourne Grove,  
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex,  
October 16.

### Land of the living

From Mr Barry Nicholas, FBA

Sir, Some 25 years ago a retired colleague of mine, who had been a professor in France and was living in New York, was required, when collecting his monthly pension from the French consulate, to present, like Professor Kahn (letter, October 15), a certificate that he was alive.

On one occasion he had been away for two months and, on applying for the two instalments, presented a certificate only for the more recent month. He was told that this was not sufficient: a certificate for the earlier month was also needed.

Yours faithfully,  
BARRY NICHOLAS,  
18a Charlbury Road, Oxford.

### Rural mayhem

From Mrs Bridget Kenward

Sir, I note that your advertisement including a dead gardener as part of a country property deal is repeated in the same issue in which Mrs Baudrand's letter drew attention to it (October 17). I conclude, therefore, that this is not an example of rural mayhem but of organic gardening.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIDGET KENWARD,  
Stoborough Croft,  
Grange Road, Wareham, Dorset.











# Breathtaking acid clashes



Power, passion and desperation: Jane Eaglen as Brünnhilde and Willard White as Wotan in *Walküre*

## OPERA

### Die Walküre

#### Theatre Royal, Glasgow

AT YET another point of financial crisis for one of our opera companies, Scottish Opera probably needed something to boost morale as well as to re-emphasise its value. Well, it has it. This *Walküre* is a quite astonishing night in the theatre, for which credit must go to an outstanding cast, to the conducting of John Mauceri, but chiefly to the director Richard Jones and designer Nigel Lowery, for bringing to the work an entirely fresh view, and one which facilitates the individual musical and dramatic performances, and gives them a challenging, even shocking, credibility.

Colour is important. The *Ring* can surely never have been seen before in these violent acid clashes: dull reds and purples in the first act, with Siegmund and Sieglinde in the blues and pinks of babyhood, and in the last act ferocious purple and chrome yellow. But shape and size are important too. Lowery's images are simple, huge, garish and few: elemental but completely lacking in reverence. And that is Jones's way also — they both dare outrageously.

Maybe, above colour and imagery, tempo is most crucial. Along with the rest of the *Ring* baggage they abandon the tradition of playing whole scenes, often whole acts, in a single set. Their stage is busy, with changing drops and running curtains; there is no attempt to pretend we are in some epic place, where the whole thing unfolds. This is in line with contemporary musical scholarship, which tends to look at what is momentary and opportunistic in Wagner's scores rather than at what is symphonic and continuous.

Beyond that, the feverishness lives in the individual performance, and the active stage machinery is an enabling of them. Jones directs the

great duos of this opera as encounters between people living at a high pitch of passion and volatility. There are strikingly telling gestures: the way Siegmund keeps herself tightly hugged in fear, or flinches when she has to admit she is Hunding's possession; the way Fricka, before she leaves, tries to wrap herself in Wotan's right arm, but he lets it fall passively to his side; the way Brünnhilde's utter conviction keeps forcing her out of the kneeling position she has to adopt for Wotan's trade. All this is poignant and human, as is Wotan's desperate shaking of Siegmund's lifeless body — an action which, like so much in this production, seems to be empowered by, and to empower, the music.

There are brilliant theatrical inventions — Wotan, hemmed in against black with a square of dimmed light, narrating himself to a double — but no excesses succeed like those of the last act. The Valkyries are a vision entirely in keeping with the production's novelty and hysteria: tottering on buskins and swathed in purple from high conical hoods to long bell skirts, they look like a grotesque order of nuns, their fingers, arms and faces struck by ties. We are a million miles from the nightclub hostesses of recent productions; we are up against something fiercely disconcerting. Looking so, the singers here seem to have been spurred to wield a manic energy in their vocal performances,

which are thrillingly sure and pointed. But nearly everything in the entire evening is vocally bang on target. John Keyes as Siegmund and Carol Jahr as Sieglinde are both full of strength without force or exaggeration. There is a bleak Hunding from Kevin Maynor, a vituperative and sexy Fricka from Sally Burgess, and a touchingly frank, naive Brünnhilde from Jane Eaglen. But the strong undertow of warmth, regret, power and desperation comes from Willard White as Wotan: a colossal man. The final image — of him walking away in slow motion, already the Wanderer — is utterly breathtaking.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

## ROCK

### Extreme

#### Hammersmith Odeon

THE first reports from America, earlier this year, spoke of a new, heavy rock-funk group from Boston, Extreme, featuring a gifted young guitarist, called Nuno Bettencourt. His combination of melodic fire, highly evolved technique and artful ambition had already drawn comparison with the grandmasters of metal guitar, Steve Vai and Eddie Van Halen. Indeed, in a smart move that echoed

Van Halen's celebrated contribution to Michael Jackson's "Beat It", Bettencourt had played on Janet Jackson's 1990 hit, "Black Cat". Next thing, Extreme was No 1 in America and very close to the top of the UK chart with "More Than Words", a delicate, acoustic harmony ballad that could not have been further removed from the hyperactive rough-and-tumble of their usual fare, and which cast a new light on the boast implicit in the group's name.

At the first of three nights at Hammersmith, however, they presented a lukewarm spectacle, a capable display of showmanship leavened by flashes of brilliance from

Bettencourt, but lacking the depth of material needed to make a lasting impression. There was none of the social outcast chic that Guns N' Roses have done so much to promote. Instead their department was nimble and upbeat, with singer Gary Cherone flouting a well-honed physique and a vocal style that sounded at times like a low-registered David Lee Roth.

Bettencourt, a spry customer with flowing dark hair, did indeed demonstrate an outstanding technical facility, but his standard-issue, heavy metal guitar sound — that bright, topky, immaculately frayed tone that they all go in for — did not help him

establish a voice of his own. His most impressive display was an acoustic guitar interlude prior to "More Than Words", where he played with rapid adventurous flair across the grain of a drum machine beat.

But as a whole, the band were too obviously the acceptable face of metal. On their best song, "Get the Funk Out", they harnessed a danceable groove to a cheerfully uplifting chorus, but at their worst — the dreary finale of "Song for Love" — they sounded uncomfortably like a heavy rock entry for the Eurovision song contest.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## CONCERT

### Atlanta SO/Levi

#### Festival Hall

IF IT'S Sunday it must be London would have been an excruciating thought among the 100 or so players of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra on a European tour that called for 15 cities in not many more days. Any such thinking, though, tapped into impressive resources of commitment and purposeful performance under the Israeli-born Yoel Levi, their music director since 1988, whose conducting lacked nothing in musical leadership.

Advanced reports (and a couple of CDs) suggested that this orchestra from the capital of Georgia, Coca-Cola and the sponsors of the tour, Delta Airlines, was knocking on the door of America's big league. In spite of deciding (or, more likely, being told) that Tchaikovsky was still the way to make a good impression here, they needed no such musical hostage to fortune.

They presented a calling card at the outset in a *Sinfonietta* by 42-year-old Stephen Paulus. He adapted it from a

recent string quartet, beefing up string writing with what he called "percussive effects, brisk interjections, or brisk woodwind articulations". The result brought Shostakovich to mind more than once, and this listener's previous experience of Paulus's operatic writing found its instrumental counterpart no less bland.

Silvio Mints was a soloist of virtuoso brilliance and energetic bravura in Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. At the same time his playing was informed by a musical sensibility that expressed itself in the seamless line of sustained tone, its purity in the highest register and an awareness of when to relax the intensity of his attack and phrasing in the interests of ensemble blend.

Here and in Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony the orchestral playing was marked by unified attack and well-moulded phrasing among the strings, outstanding solo playing by the first horn and first flute. At the end Levi brought back the harps and percussion for the final dance from Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloé* as an encore of thrilling instrumental balance, rhythm and colour.

NOEL GOODWIN

## CONCERT

### RLPO/Pesek

#### Philharmonic Hall

#### Liverpool

COMMISSIONING a work is always risky. Even the most reliable composers write the occasional dud, in which case you are stuck with it. And if you prefer to steer away from the obvious choices, the risks grow. So it must be said that the series of works commissioned to celebrate 150 years of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society has been remarkably successful. Mostly by lesser known or local composers, they have shown a wide range of styles, from the semi-popular to the unashamedly elitist; and most have a real vitality of invention.

A new horn concerto by Anthony Powers could be expected to add well to this, because he is a composer with a well-formed personal language and a respectable series of works to his name. But he seems unable to write for the solo horn in a gratifying or memorable way. Even in the hands of the redoubtable Michael Thompson, the fiercely challenging solo part

sounded like so much empty note-spinning. That may be something to do with the perennial difficulty of adapting the virtuoso horn to a contemporary idiom; but it is also the result of textual over-reaching in the orchestral writing. With triple woodwind and an orchestra divided into two antiphonal paths plus a central concertino group, there were too many small-scale events. This is not to deny that there were occasional moments of pure magic, particularly the one opening the second of the work's two substantial movements. But for the concertino group to include timpani and a tuba, though it was a neatly original idea, led to horrific balance problems.

And as though to prove the point Lirio Pesek ended the concert with a miraculously balanced reading of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony, in deliciously pastel tones, played with the rhythmic freedom of chamber music. You could say that the fourth movement was the least threatening storm possible; a tenuous would have been ashamed of it. But here was a coherent, compelling and individual view of the symphony.

DAVID FALLOWS

## NEW RELEASES

**CHATTANOOGUE (15):** Gary Oldman in a Florida period thriller. Oldman plays a man who is accused of murdering a woman. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

**CITY SLICKERS (12):** Over-the-top comedy starring Billy Crystal and Chevy Chase. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

**DEKALOG PARTS 5 AND 6 (18):** A devastating analysis of a senseless murder, plus a voyeuristic look at the lives of the best from Krzysztof Kozlowski's Ten Commandments cycle. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

**DOO HOLLWOOD (12):** L.A. bound duos (Michael J. Fox) become comedy on the slopes. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

**EDWARD II (18):** Retelling the story of a medieval king's love affair with a man. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

**MANNEQUIN ON THE MOVE (PG):** Unlucky sequel to a 1987 comedy. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

**THE RESCUERS DOWN UNDER (U):** The star race from Disney's 1977 *The Rescuers* return to rescue a kidnapped boy. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

## CINEMA GUIDE

**Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where to see them**

**Handel: Bury, Mike Gabriel.** (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

**THE COMMENTS (18):** Hard-boiled Dublin youngsters form a soul band. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

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**LET HIM HAVE IT (15):** An epileptic youngster's road to the big screen. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

**MEETING VENUS (12):** Backstage drama while staging *Tamara*. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

**PROSPERO'S BOOKS (15):** Peter Greenaway's variation on *The Tempest*. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

**A RAGE IN HARLEM (18):** Sufficiency and violence in a comedy. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

**STEPPING OUT (12):** A comedy about a man's life. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

**UNRAVELS (15):** Dark, powerful drama from Michael Mann. (MCA Home Video, £19.95)

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**5.00** *Celebs*  
**5.30** *Breakfast News*  
**9.05** *Kilroy*. Robert Kilroy-Glick chairs a studio discussion on whether Sunday should be just another shopping day. With guest Angela Rumbold, MP, 9.50 *Hot Chicks*. Gary Rhodes, continuing his series on great British fare, prepares haddock and Welsh rabbit.  
**10.00** *News*, regional news and weather 10.05 *Playdays*. For the very young (y) 10.25 *The Family News*. Cartoon adventures of a family of monsters living in Loch Ness (y) 10.35 *The Clothes Show*. Thirty-two smartly-dressed youngsters help celebrate the programme's fifth birthday at a party in London Zoo (y) (s)  
**11.00** *News*, regional news and weather 11.05 *Mo Kidding*. Family quiz show presented by Mike Smith and Kate Capstick (s) 11.30 *People Today*. Includes Russell Grant talking to Ian Livingstone about his pet salamander; and David Jones in Nottingham on the karaoke trail. Plus, an interview with tragic sexpupils mother Sue Hutton on the birth of her new baby girl. With *News*, regional news and weather at 11.50  
**12.20** *Debbie*. John Peel's guest in the foyer today is the venerable comedian and comic actor Bob Hope 12.55 *Regional news and weather*  
**1.00** *One O'Clock News* and weather  
**1.30** *Neighbours*. (Cesfex) (s) 1.50 *Four Square*. General knowledge knock out hosted by John Sachs  
**2.15** *Fibre Road to Zanzibar* (1991). b/w starring Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. In the second of the *Fibre Road* comedies, Hope and Crosby play two women who are parted from their money by two beautiful women and find themselves in the middle of the jungle with only cannibals as company. With good songs, Dorothy Lamour and Una Merkel. Directed by Victor Seitzinger  
**3.45** *Tom and Jerry*. Cartoon 3.50 *Poddington Peas*. Animated adventures 3.55 *Badger and Badger*. Episode four of the 12-part children's comedy drama (s) 4.10 *Heathcliff* with Cats and Co. Cartoon adventures of an alley cat and his friends (y)



Helping children to dig into the past: Frances Pryor (4.35pm)

**4.35** *Tom and Jerry*. The first of a new six-part children's history series. Frances Pryor and Paul Birbeck visit Maiden Castle near Dorchester in Dorset and learn about a battle fought against the invading Romans and what village life was like in the Iron Age  
**5.00** *News*, regional news and weather 5.10 *Change Hill*. Episode 13 of the 20-part children's drama serial set in a school (y) (Cesfex) (s)  
**5.35** *Neighbours* (r). (Cesfex) (s). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster  
**6.00** *Six O'Clock News* with John Humphrys and Jill Dando. Weather  
**6.30** *Regional News* magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours  
**7.00** *Every Second Counts*. Comedy quiz game for couples (s)  
**7.50** *EastEnders*. (Cesfex) (s)  
**8.00** *Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*. Reginald dons a heavy disguise and attends his own funeral in this week's episode of David Hoggan's classic comedy. Starring Leonard Rossiter and Pauline Yates (r). (Cesfex)  
**8.30** *A Question of Sport* presented by David Coleman. This week the regular team captains, Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham, are joined by Peter Beardsley, Fatma Whitbread, Carl Hooper and David Gorman. (Cesfex) (s)  
**9.00** *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. (Cesfex) Regional news and weather  
**9.30** *Melting Out*. Episode five of the Debbie Horsfield's convention-drama comedy series about the lives and loves of women working in a northern electronics factory. (Cesfex) (s). Wales: Week in Week Out 10.00 *Melting Out*  
**10.20** *Film 91* with Barry Norman. From the film released this week are *Dead Again*, Kenneth Branagh's latest; *Boys n the Hood*, which marks John Singleton's directing debut; and *David Mamet's* *Homicide* which stars Joe Mantegna  
**10.50** *David Essex*. Past, Present and... The singer in concert at the Bournemouth International Convention Centre  
**11.40** *Sponsor for Hire*. The private detective investigates the death of an old friend and discovers that he was a gun-runner. Starring Robert Urich  
**12.30am** *Weather*. Wales: Film 91 1.00 *News* and weather

**8.00** *News 8.15 Westminster*  
**9.00** *Daytime on 2: Quizzes Minutes* 9.15 *Lamaze Express* 9.30 *Diaz Tames* 9.45 *You and Me* 10.00 *Look and Read* 10.15 *Q and A* 10.40 *Techno* - Aesthetics and Design 11.00 *Watch: Grandparents* 11.15 *English Express* 11.35 *Science* 11.55 *What's New* 12.15 *What's Believing?* 12.35 *The Greenhouse Effect* 12.55 *A Way with Numbers* 1.20 *Bertha* (s) 1.35 *Crystal Tips* and *Alastair 1.40* *Outlook* - My Wales  
**2.00** *News* and weather followed by *You and Me* (r)  
**2.15** *Snooker*. The last two round five matches in the Rothmans grand prix from the Hexagon, Reading, introduced by David Vint  
**2.45** *Edmonds*, John Spencer, John Virgo and Eddie Charlton  
**3.00** *News* and weather followed by *Westminster Live*. Includes prime minister's question time 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather  
**4.00** *Snooker*. Further fifth round coverage from the Hexagon, Reading  
**4.30** *Dreams Gardens*. Garden designer Alan Dingwall explores the different uses of water in garden design. He visits gardens in Hampshire, Derbyshire and Gloucestershire (y)  
**6.00** *Film: Sign of the Pagan* (1954) starring Jack Palance, Jeff Chandler and Lucinda Pataki. Glossy version of the story of Attila the Hun. It tells how one of his captured Roman captives escapes and lays plans for an epic battle between the Romans and the barbarians. Directed by Douglas Sirk  
**7.30** *Animation Now: Night Visitors* - a film by British animator Richard Olive (y)  
**7.40** *Assignment: The Secret of the Steppes*.  
 © CHOICE: Brian Barron's report from Mongolia is a mixture of history and current affairs which runs from Genghis Khan to the present day but concentrates on the atrocities of the Stalinist era. After the first world war Mongolia became the 16th Soviet republic in all but name and threw up its own version of Stalin, a murderous and drunken monster called Marshal Chubaisan. It has been estimated that one in ten of the population died on Chubaisan's orders. Many of the victims were Buddhist monks, shot through the head as part of a systematic attempt to wipe out their faith. The programme has two particularly striking sequences. One is of skulls and bones being unearthed from a mass grave. The other is an interview with a former chief administrator who personally put 15,000 men to death. Now old and wiser he recalls the episode with the calm matter-of-factness of someone who feels not a shred of guilt  
**8.30** *Food and Drink* presented by Michael Barry, Paul Heiney and Jill Goodlen. Includes items on diet and its effect on cholesterol; and the rediscovery of real rennet  
**9.00** *The Bookers Prize: A Late Show* special, presented by Sarah Durant and Tracey MacLeod live from London's Guildhall. Coverage of the result of this year's competition and a discussion on the six novels shortlisted

**9.50** *Think of England*.  
 © CHOICE: Roger Scruton, philosophy professor and guru of the Conservative party, offers a study defence of the English countryside as embodying the national genius for harmony and compromise. He argues that the landscape can only be preserved by private ownership and blames "iniquitous tax laws" for the disappearance of great houses. Scruton concedes that the rural economy depends on the leisure pursuits of the townspeople. But he wishes what he calls the "heavenly inhabitants" of the inner cities would not roam the countryside in their motor cars. Although himself an incomer, he does his roaming on a motorcycle or horse. He attacks the Anglican Church for its trendy liturgies. His rural world is essentially a romantic one, evoked by Constable's paintings. Trollope's novels, hereditary landowners and fox hunting. The common people are only briefly glimpsed  
**10.30** *Newsnight* with Peter Parker  
**11.15** *The Late Show*. Includes a report on US-based artist Christo and his umbrella project (s)  
**11.55** *Snooker*. Further coverage of the Rothmans grand prix from the Hexagon, Reading  
**12.45am** *Weather*



A romantic evocation of rural England: Roger Scruton (9.50pm)

**9.50** *Think of England*.  
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**12.45am** *Weather*

**8.00** *TV-am*  
**9.25** *Jeopardy!* Quiz game in which Steve Jones supplies the answers and the contestants have to come up with the questions 9.55 *Thames News* and weather  
**10.00** *The Time ... The Place ...* John Stapleton chairs a discussion on a topical subject  
**10.40** *This Morning*. Family magazine series  
**12.10** *Rod, Jane and Freddy*. For the young (y)  
**12.30** *News* with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather 1.10 *Thames News* and weather  
**1.20** *Hot and Cold*. Australian family drama series (Oracle) 1.50 *A Country Practice*. Medical drama series (s)  
**2.20** *Take the High Road*. Highland-based soap 2.50 *Give Us a Cue*. Celebrity charades series chaired by Michael Parkinson (s)  
**3.15** *ITN News* headlines 3.20 *Thames News* headlines 3.25 *Thames*. Drama serial connecting Australia with the north of England (s)  
**3.55** *Hot Dog*. Puppet series 4.05 *Rupert*. Animated adventures of the hero of Nutwood and his chums (s) 4.30 *Children's Ward*. Children's drama set in a large city hospital. (Oracle) (s) 5.00 *Cartoon starring David Duck*  
**5.10** *Blockbusters*. General knowledge quiz for teenagers  
**5.40** *News* with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather  
**5.55** *Thames Film*. Jackie Spreckley with news of the "wrapping is a no-off" campaign  
**6.00** *Home and Away* (r) (Oracle)  
**6.30** *Thames News*. (Oracle)  
**7.00** *Emmerdale*. Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)  
**7.30** *Thames Reports: House of Cards*. Reporter Marcus Powell talks to householders about the consequences of thousands of pounds being knocked off the value of their homes because of the property slump. Plus, the increasing row over the government's decision to privatise the groundstate working for the royal parks  
**8.00** *The Bill*. The PC Young is clearly affected by the suicide of a young prostitute and turns to WPC Datta for sympathy and help, but she cannot give enough. Starring Colin Aldridge and Seeta Indrani. (Oracle)  
**8.30** *The Curse of Mr Bean*. Rowan Atkinson stars as the accident-prone Mr Bean. Tonight, he drives, ordering lunch and demonstrates why he hasn't got a girlfriend (s)  
**9.00** *Boon*. Comedy drama series starring Michael Elphick as a naive private detective. In this adventure, he is reunited with an old flame. (Oracle)  
**10.00** *News* at Ten with Alastair Stewart and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 *Thames News* and weather



The Soviet Union's political transitions Yuri Podnieks (10.40pm)

**10.40** *Viewpoint 91: End of Empire*.  
 © CHOICE: The Latvian film-maker Yuri Podnieks has provided a unique and individual record of the Soviet Union during the painful transition from Stalinism to glasnost and perestroika. End of Empire draws on material from previous documentaries, including the award-winning *Halo, Do You Hear Us?* and *Homeland* but is mainly based on footage shot during and after the abortive August coup. Podnieks was in Latvia when the news of Gorbachev's overthrow came through. He was arrested, interrogated and beaten up. His camera was smashed. Under threat he found another camera and resumed filming. To assess the post-coup mood he travelled to Georgia, Armenia and the Ukraine. As always his concern was to capture the struggle of ordinary people for independence and freedom. Ironically, now that they look like getting it, he confesses to a feeling of anti-climax. (Oracle)  
**11.40** *Prisoner*. Call Bloke H. Australian drama set in a women's remand centre  
**12.30am** *Videoview*. Mariella Frosting reviews the latest video releases  
**1.00** *The Equilibrium*. McCall is hired by an investor whose designs have been stolen by a big corporation. Starring Edward Woodward  
**2.00** *Donashie*. A discussion on whether or not bled men are sexy  
**2.50** *Nite Bites*. Instant soup and bacon and banana sandwiches  
**3.00** *60 Minutes*. Award-winning American news magazine  
**4.00** *Entertainment UK*. A guide to Britain's entertainment scene  
**5.00** *Thames's Company*. American comedy series  
**5.30** *ITN Morning News* with Tim Nelson. Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00** *The Channel 4 Daily 9.25 Schools*  
**12.00** *The Parliament Programme* presented by Anne Perkins  
**12.30** *Business Daily*. News from the world's money markets  
**1.00** *Sesame Street*. Pre-school learning series  
**2.00** *Film: Pilot No 5* (1943, b/w) starring Franchot Tone, Marsha Hunt, Gene Kelly and Van Johnson. Second world war drama about a lawyer who, after losing his job by exposing a corrupt southern politician, enlists in the air force and volunteers for a suicide mission against a Japanese aircraft carrier. Directed by George Sidney  
**3.15** *The Cosets of Clyde*. A 1959 British Rail film in which broadcaster Bernard Braden takes a nostalgic trip to his family's home territory around the Firth of Clyde before making for Arnan  
**3.45** *Third Wave*. Mavis Nicholson presents the series for the over 55s. Today's programme examines the role of the elderly in Indian family life and investigates how Western ideals of consumerism and individualism have encroached on old ways and attitudes. (Teletext)  
**4.30** *Fifteen-to-One*. Quick-fire general knowledge quiz  
**5.00** *Q&A*. This last in the children's wildlife series comes from Whipsnade Zoo where Michaela Strachan meets a new-born desert lynx. Sally Foster visits a hospital for injured and orphaned bats in Penzance and a field study centre for handicapped children near Lashwell in Cornwall. (Teletext)  
**5.30** *Same Difference*. Magazine series about disfigurement. Today's edition investigates why hundreds of diabetics are proposing to take the makers of insulin to court over changes in its methods of manufacture. Presented by Mark Todd and Ian Macrae  
**6.00** *My Two Dads*. American comedy series about two bachelors who inherit a 12-year-old daughter  
**6.30** *Happy Days*. Henry Winkler, as the super-cool Fonzy in the 1950s-set comedy series. Tonight, he debacles unsuccessfully in a school  
**7.00** *Channel 4 News* with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext)  
**7.50** *Comment*  
**8.00** *From Russia With Laughter*. An investigation into Soviet humour, including clips from performances by leading Soviet comedians (y)  
**8.30** *Lawyers*. The last in the fly-on-the-wall series detailing the work of a group of lawyers and their clients. Tonight, solicitor Caroline Ains deduces a woman whose violent husband has disappeared leaving her with his business debts; and Philip Browne handles the case of a woman whose husband was killed in a private coal mine (Teletext)



A genetic threat to the purity of the German race (8.00pm)

**8.00** *Without Walls: Selling Murder* - the Killing Films of the Third Reich.  
 © CHOICE: One of the less publicised evils of the Third Reich was its systematic murder of the mentally and physically disabled. Under their so-called euthanasia programme the Nazis killed some 200,000 disabled people by starvation, lethal medication or toxic gas. The slaughter was justified by branding these unfortunate as a genetic threat to the purity of the German race. Joanna Mack's sobering documentary not only reconstructs this dreadful episode but includes samples of Nazi propaganda films, scripts and fragments of which have recently come to light in the former East Germany. They often featured a professor figure to lend authority to their evil ideology while using harsh under-lighting to make the patients look grotesque. In many subtle form the message was embodied in a wartime feature film, *Abschied*, which was seen by 15 million people and won a prize at the Venice festival  
**10.00** *Film: A Question of Love* (1978) starring Gene Rowlands and Jane Alexander. A made-for-television drama, based on fact, about the struggle of a mother to keep her young son when a suit is brought by her former husband seeking custody of the child because the mother is a lesbian. Directed by Jerry Thorpe  
**11.50** *Secret Agents*. The last in the series about the lives of secret agents in a Zurich attempting to acquire the services of a defector Soviet space scientist. Their task is made more difficult when they fail for each other. Starring Hazel Court  
**12.00am** *John McLaughlin and Jones Holbrook*. Rock and classical guitar combine in this concert recorded in Bourges in 1987. Ends at 1.30

## TV VARIATIONS

**ANGLIA**  
 As London except 6.50pm-7.00 *Anglia News* 7.30-8.00 *Food Guide*

**BORDER**  
 As London except 8.30pm-8.50 *Border News* 9.00-9.30 *Border News* 9.30-10.00 *Border News*

**BT**  
 As London except 8.30pm-8.50 *BT News* 9.00-9.30 *BT News* 9.30-10.00 *BT News*

**CELTIC**  
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# Harare agrees to disagree on timing of sanctions end

FROM ROBIN OAKLEY IN HARARE

BRITAIN was again in a minority of one at the end of the Commonwealth heads of government meeting here, insisting on spelling out its belief that economic sanctions against South Africa be ended faster than the rest of the Commonwealth was prepared to countenance.

But after a harmonious meeting, the differences were contained within the official communiqué which endorsed the foreign ministers' plan for unwinding sanctions step by step in response to specific further stages towards the end of apartheid. Britain was prepared to live with the "pro-

grammed management" approach after a debate characterised, according to one official, by "yawning rather than shouting".

The formula agreed by the Commonwealth provides for people-to-people sanctions, including visa restrictions, bans on cultural exchanges and direct air links, to be lifted immediately. Trade and investment measures will be lifted "when appropriate transitional mechanisms have been agreed which would enable all the parties to participate fully in negotiations".

Financial sanctions, described as the most demonstrably effective of all (and which affect lending by the World Bank and IMF) would go only "when agreement is reached on the text of a new democratic constitution".

But, to British satisfaction, the communiqué gives greater flexibility to the foreign ministers' recommendations, adding that financial sanctions should not continue if "a contrary recommendation is made by agreement at the proposed all-party conference, or by an interim government". The communiqué also calls for the United Nations arms embargo to be maintained.

A separate paragraph in the document spelt out the reservations of the British delegation, saying: "The British prime minister stressed the importance of foreign investment in restoring growth to the South African economy and the need for decisions now if the current economic decline was to be halted in time for the inauguration of South Africa's first majority government."

"It is for this reason that, while agreeing with the lifting of 'people sanctions' and the maintenance of the arms embargo, he did not agree with the recommendation of the committee on the time-scale for lifting economic and financial sanctions."

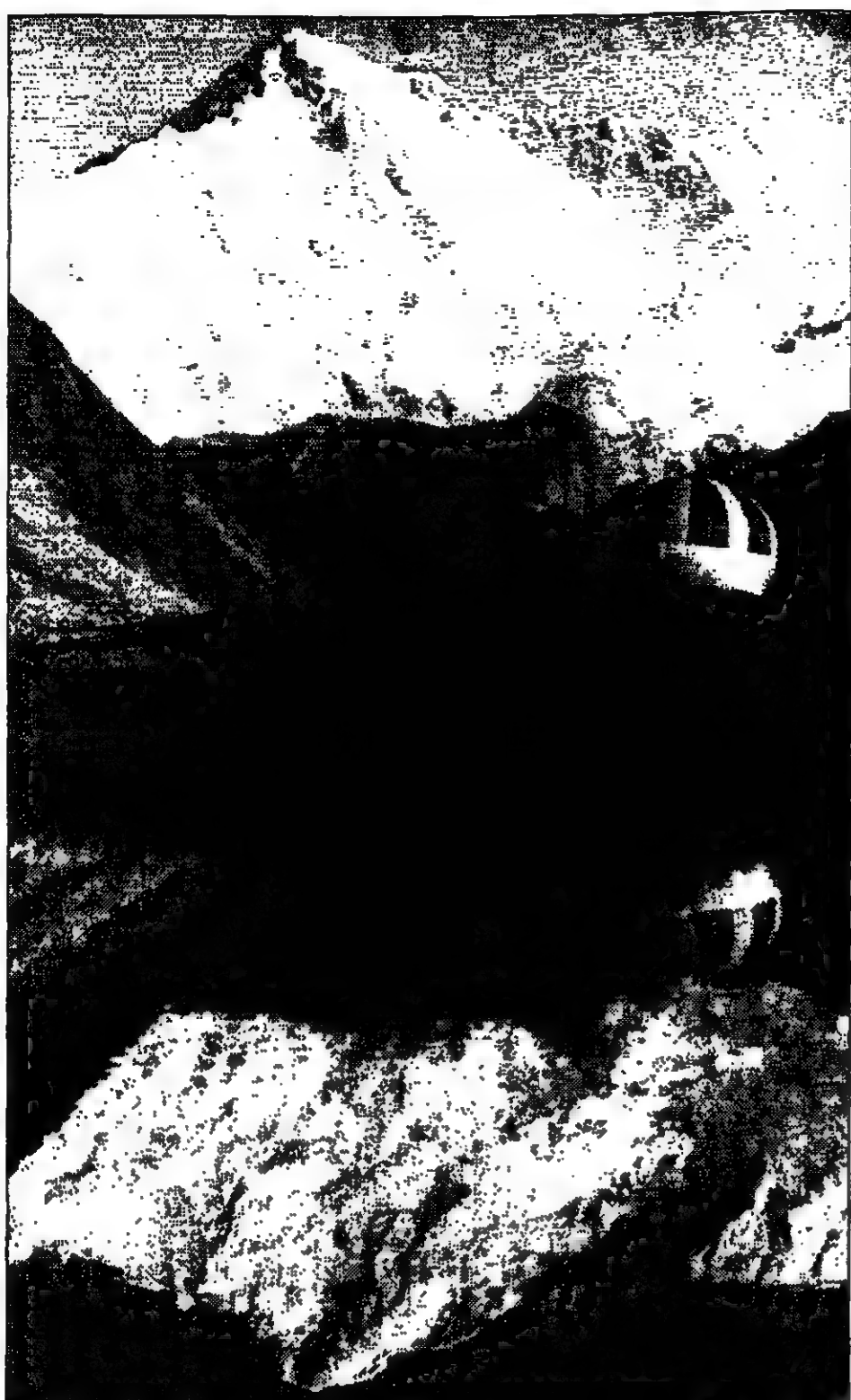
John Major, who flies back from Harare today, said that the separate Harare Declaration, setting out democratic principles and standards, was "not a string of words to forget, but a roadmap for our future progress".

Clearly alarmed and infuriated by a series of recent incidents in which ministers have been hounded into abandoning official visits, or intimidated into cancelling scheduled appearances, Mr Mitterrand made it clear he expects prompt and effective action. He was prompted, no doubt, by a vivid account of what had happened to M. Baylet.

Talks collapsing, page 10

Japanese decision, page 11

South Africa poised, page 38



Roof-top reflections: two British hot-air balloons, at lake Gyoko in Nepal, prepare for yesterday's historic flight over Everest. Four Britons became the first balloonists to make the flight (Matthew D'Ancona writes). They lifted off from Gyoko, 18 miles southwest of the mountain and, protected only by layers of warm clothing from -50°C temperatures, cleared the Himalayan summit; 45 minutes later they landed safely at Rongxar, inside Tibet, for Russian champagne and a hot bath. Peter Mason, director of the project, said: "I don't think I've ever laughed or cried so much in my life. We are all thrilled." The crew were Chris Dewhurst, aged 43, of Melbourne, Andy Elson, aged 37, from Bathampton, Leo Dickinson, aged 45, from Bristol and Eric Jones, aged 55, of Tremez, north Wales.

## Polish voters toast ale and hearty party

Continued from page 1

quality democratic ideas in the eyes of Poles."

Mr Kwasniewski is not at all bothered by the broadside, pointing out that his party has the support of a large proportion of the Polish business community. Many entrepreneurs have shifted their loyalty to the Beer Lovers from the more obvious choice of the Liberal Democratic Congress led by Jan Krzysztof Bielecki,

the prime minister — a group of committed free marketeers who recently received the tacit blessing of Margaret Thatcher.

One businessman said yesterday: "At least the Beer Lovers have a carefully thought-through taxation policy." As Mr Kwasniewski was quick to point out, the party even has a foreign policy. "It is better to go forward into Europe in a

slightly tipsy state than in a drunken stupor," he said.

The party reckons it will end up with close to 10 per cent of votes cast. Surveys suggest that between 25 and 36 per cent of Poles are undecided about how they will vote. Up to 50 per cent of the electorate are saying that they will not vote at all. Since the Beer Lovers are plainly not attached to any of the left or right-wing Solidarity factions,

## Hospitals warned against charges

Continued from page 1

had been forced to retreat and backtrack on its claims. "We have privatisation replaced by creeping privatisation; we have creeping privatisation replaced by commercialisation, falsehoods replaced by creeping falsehoods."

Mr Waldegrave's disclosure that private health insurance for the elderly might be ended in the budget was not cleared with the prime minister or the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it emerged yesterday.

Government sources maintained that he was merely expressing his own view as health secretary that the schemes, which benefit 600,000 people at a cost of £50 million a year, had not been taken up very widely.

It was obvious that the health secretary had taken most of his ministerial colleagues by surprise, and Treasury sources insisted that it was by no means a certainty for inclusion in the budget. Downing Street sources emphasised that it was solely a matter for Norman Lamont.

Sources close to Mr Waldegrave admitted that he had been "rapped over the knuckles" by colleagues. Some ministers felt that he had handed Labour more ammunition on the eve of the debate by giving the Opposition the opportunity to claim that he was retreating from the health reforms.

In yesterday's debate Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, ridiculed Mr Waldegrave's "cheerful admission" that the schemes did not work very well. All that was needed now was a letter from Margaret Thatcher, the former prime minister, saying she was "only too painfully aware that she was responsible and mystified it was such a flop." Mr Cook called Mr Waldegrave's remarks "an act of repentance."

Parliament, page 5

Letters, page 15

## NHS big match noisy, not newsy

THE Commons order paper promised a big match: the confrontation between health secretary William Waldegrave, and his Labour shadow and MP for Livingston, Robin Cook.

Waldegrave's disclosure that private health insurance for the elderly might be ended in the budget was not cleared with the prime minister or the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it emerged yesterday.

Confronted with the Welsh score (6 points) after this summer's rugby match with Australia (53 points), Mr Hunt would have no difficulty. "Ah," he would say, "but what marvellous points they were." Hunt is a man who knows how to put the best face on things.

But surely junior minister Sir Wyn Roberts overdid his master's approach when he answered Labour's John Marek (Wrexham). Marek had complained of a four-car train from Holyhead to Crewe so crowded that 150 passengers had been forced to stand. What did the minister say to that?

"I'm sure," beamed the Sir Wyn, "that BR will be glad to hear of the heavy demand for their services."

Earlier, Mr Hunt had boasted that NHS expenditure per head in Wales had risen from £171 per year in 1979, to £269 today — in real terms. This disgraceful figure was announced with no hint of apology: yet pitchforking public funds into the principal has done nothing to cheer the natives up, if their MPs are any guide.

The same was true of the afternoon's second curtain-raiser: a 15-page, 46-section "social security" benefits (upgrading) statement.

"Our firm and continuing commitment is to increase the pension fully in line with prices," announced secretary of state, Tony Newton.

shouted the Labour benches. "Hooray!" shouted the Tories. This characterised the intellectual level on which the government's proposals were scrutinised.

Newton announced increases beyond inflation. Labour shouted: "not enough!" and the Tories shouted "hooray!" — then went on to ask for more.

The question arising in your sketchwriter's mind, "if this isn't more, show me what is," went, unasked. Heaven help a Labour chancellor, John Smith, if it falls to him to answer it next year.

Each party is bidding the other up in a six-month auction.

So perhaps it is fortunate that the celebrated NHS joust between Mr Cook and Mr Waldegrave contained no facts at all, but just noise. This was the strongest Commons performance I can remember from Waldegrave: a half-hour tirade of ad hominem point-scoring in the finest Oxford Union style. He gave the impression of having interrupted a violent session of pre-ups to leap in and make his speech. He was outshouted only by the occasional shriek for order from a woman Waldegrave consistently called "Mr Speaker" — Betty Boothroyd, making an impressive bid for that job should Labour win the election. Waldegrave delighted his own side and enraged everyone else.

By the same token, Cook did well too, outlining what now passes for opposition policy on health: a story about an ill person who had died under this government.

Asked to say how much he would spend, he offered this ringing pledge: "In each year we will make progress."

Tories were outraged that he promised so little; your sketchwriter thankful that he promised no more.

MATTHEW PARRIS

## Farmers rampage in France

Continued from page 1

to meet the rebel farmers. "The fact that the French are taking this much more seriously is one of the most cheerful changes," Mr Gummer said.

Agriculture ministers were in Luxembourg to discuss an EC plan for CAP reform by the farm commissioner, Ray MacSharry, and an alternative French plan, awaited for months. "The French have seen that reform is necessary," said Mr Gummer.

Mme Cresson's warning to her ministers was issued at the first session of a "crisis cell" headed by the prime minister's adviser on internal security. At an emergency meeting in the Elysees last weekend, President Mitterrand instructed Mme Cresson to take whatever steps were necessary to regain control of the situation.

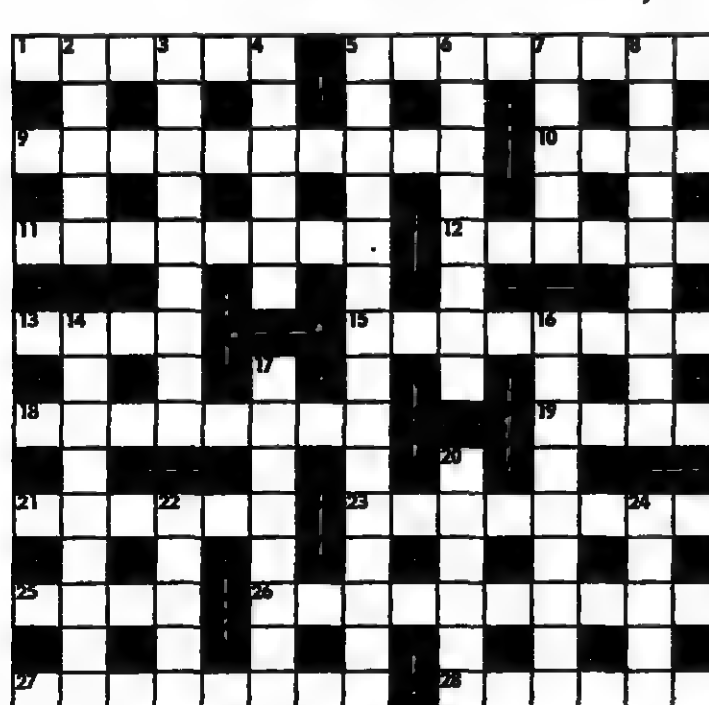
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Talks collapsing, page 10

Japanese decision, page 11

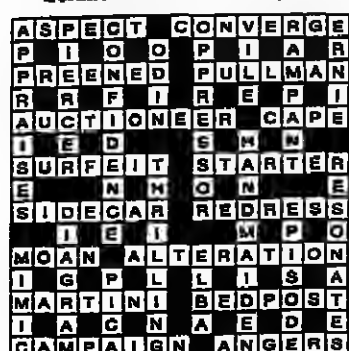
South Africa poised, page 38

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,743



- ACROSS**
- High Street bank? (6).
  - Cry of pain in open carriage (8).
  - Hostile because of the calling at bridge (10).
  - Bar trade (4).
  - To follow language of the Philippines, include a neuter (3,5).
  - Bedding in disorder (6).
  - Waller in coat seen to fall out (8).
  - Crustacean badly barnacled, having no energy (4,4).
  - Hostelries admitting people to the bar (4).
  - Lacking normal tension in muscles, try a shot in the arm (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,742



- DOWN**
- Monetary unit of the market (5).
  - Docked at the end, like a runner at Campdown (9).
  - Highly exciting and ruddy popular (3,3).
  - Bandit, about noon, pays for drinks in this charity event (5,3,3,4).
  - Handle to adjust speed of clock (8).
  - Gloomy in a place for retirement abroad (5).
  - NHS orange-crush for dependants (7,2).
  - From Belfry's first to the eighth, that's where they blow up! (5,4).
  - Chap on foot (9).
  - Charlie is expert on grass (8).
  - Things for silks and synthetic fibres (6).
  - Complain about Elimelech's wife (5).
  - Measure one's length looking at this emperor (5).

Concise Crossword, page 17

## WORD WATCH

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

**ADELANTADO**  
a. Decelerating in music  
b. A vegetable rind  
c. The Pervian fighting turkey

**BECLEREE**  
a. A small iceberg  
b. A self-mutilated beggar  
c. A Turkish provincial governor

**SHIRRO**  
a. A champagne halibut pen  
b. Vegetable rind  
c. An Italian city

**PIACULAR**  
a. Prophecy  
b. Atrociously bad  
c. Healing by prayer

Answers on page 18

## AA ROADWATCH

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M ways/roads M23-M4 735

M25 London Orbital only 736

National

National motorways 737

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Wales 739

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East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

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## WEATHER

Inland mist patches will clear slowly and parts of southern England will have a touch of frost at first. Cloud on the east coast will break to give a bright, cool day. The extreme north and west will have thicker cloud with occasional light rain. Mist and fog will return again overnight but frost will be less of a problem. Outlook: variable cloud and overnight mist and fog. Rather cool.

MODAY: b-burder; d-dizzle; f-fog; s-snow; sh-sleet; sw-snow; w-wind; w-wind; w-wind

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## WEATHER

Inland mist patches will clear slowly and parts of southern England will have a touch of frost at first. Cloud on the east coast will break to give a bright, cool day. The extreme north and west will have thicker cloud with occasional light rain. Mist and fog will return again overnight but frost will be less of a problem. Outlook: variable cloud and overnight mist and fog. Rather cool.

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Political sketch  
\$ big match  
not news

## BUSINESS

TUESDAY OCTOBER 22 1991

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-27  
● LAW TIMES 29,31  
● LAW REPORT 32  
● SPORT 34-38

## Glaxo in legal fight against challenger

GLAXO, the world's second-largest drug company, launched a further American legal battle yesterday to keep the exclusive rights to its best-selling anti-ulcer drug, Zantac, which has been the power-house of profits for many years.

It is suing the private and secretive Canadian concern Novopharm, which now has an anti-ulcer treatment drug under consideration by the American Food and Drug Administration, whose approval would mean a new challenger to Zantac when Glaxo's first American patent expires in 1995.

Glaxo has filed a new patent with American regulators that would effectively protect its exclusivity over Zantac for a further seven years until 2002. This is being challenged by Novopharm and Genpharm, a Canadian father-and-son team.

## Jobs axed

Jessups, the Essex vehicle distributor, is making 10 per cent of its 500 workforce redundant, and says that when pre-tax profits for the year to August 31 are announced on November 13 "they will be somewhat lower than expectations due to prevailing weak trading conditions". The shares fell 7p to 42p.

Temps, page 24

## Kuwait quest

Bankers at JP Morgan are holding last-ditch talks in the City to try to persuade a British bank to participate in Kuwait's \$5 billion syndicated loan. British banks have pointedly refused to join the syndicate, despite the presence of most of the world's largest institutions.

Missing out, page 23

## THE POUND

US dollar  
1.7207 (+0.0007)  
German mark  
2.9063 (-0.0065)  
Exchange index  
90.4 (same)

Bank of England official  
close (4pm)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share  
1978.2 (-17.3)  
FT-SE 100  
2575.7 (-25.4)  
New York Dow Jones  
3055.90 (-21.25)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave  
25018.81 (+121.99)

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:  
Prestige ..... 220p (+10p)  
News Corp ..... 587p (+32p)  
News Int ..... 230p (+10p)  
FALLS:  
Grand Met ..... 844p (-12p)  
Scott & Newcastle ..... 412p (-10p)  
Cable & Wireless ..... 552p (-10p)  
P&P ..... 50p (-50p)  
THORN EM ..... 791p (-10p)  
Rank Org ..... 633p (-28p)  
Smith Barney ..... 758p (-11p)  
Commercial Union ..... 758p (-11p)  
Legal & General ..... 385p (-11p)  
Royal ..... 424p (-22p)  
ADT ..... 451p (-10p)  
BOC ..... 575p (-10p)  
Carlton Comm ..... 499p (-10p)  
Compass Group ..... 425p (-22p)  
Scottish TV ..... 74p (-11p)  
MEPC ..... 439p (-11p)  
Scott Mel ..... 74p (-12p)  
Closing Prices...Page 25

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10½%  
3-month Interbank 10½-10¾%  
5-month eligible bills: 10½-10¾%  
US: Prime Rate 8%  
Federal Funds 5¼%  
3-month Treasury Bills 5¼-5½%  
30-year bonds 10½-10¾%

## CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£ \$1.7200  
DM 2.9077  
SwF 2.5422  
FF 6.5595  
Yen 224.72  
Index 50.4  
CU 103.704213  
ECU 1.420024  
SDR 1.260673

## GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$363.10 pm-\$363.80  
Spot \$363.80-364.30 (\$211.25  
111.75)  
New York:  
Johannes \$366.15-366.65

## NORTH SEA OIL

Irent (Nov) \$22.85 bbl (\$22.85)

## RETAIL PRICES

IPI: 134.5 September (1987=100)  
Domestic midday trading price

\*\*\*\*\*

CBI's vision of trade department out of line with policies put forward by Lilley

## Industry urges shake-up in role of DTI

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders yesterday launched their most searching criticism of the government's attitude towards industry and called for a refocusing of the work of the trade and industry department as part of a new strategy for British manufacturing.

Although the Confederation of British Industry was careful to avoid making specific points about individuals, the thrust of its proposals for reforming the DTI is so out of line with the policies of Peter Lilley, the industry secretary, as to make their enactment virtually impossible with him in the post.

Suggestions are already circulating in Whitehall that a re-elected Conservative government would reshape the

DTI, drawing into it the energy department and possibly part of all of the employment department.

The new department would move closer to an interventionist role in British industry. Michael Heseltine, currently environment secretary but who has clear views about the need for a greater government role in business, has been suggested as a possibility for running it.

The CBI's recommendations for government's role in industry are broadly in line with the Whitehall suggestions for a refashioned DTI.

The CBI report, drawn up after consultation throughout British industry and with the particular imprint of such companies as Vickers, IBM, TI, ICI, Vauxhall, British Aerospace, John Mowlem, Short Brothers and Peugeot

Talbot, said there was a feeling that the priorities necessary for British manufacturing are "insufficiently recognised" by the government.

Criticising the fact that industry, finance, government and the civil service are "unusually fragmented" in the UK, the CBI said a range of governmental factors were "particularly damaging to manufacturing industry".

□ The DTI is "preoccupied" with its regulatory role, and "often appears ineffective in promoting the interests of manufacturing within Whitehall".

□ Government departments do not appear to take the impact of policies on manufacturing competitiveness into account.

□ The National Economic Development Council is ineffective as a manufacturing forum and should be reconstituted.

□ The Treasury and Bank of England have an "insufficient depth of understanding" about the realities of manufacturing.

A range of issues, especially concerning the EC, cannot be left for individual companies to pursue. The government should champion British industry internationally, and the DTI should be specifically refocused to play a decreasing role in regulation, and instead to encourage government action promoting the long-run international competitiveness of business.

John Banham, CBI director general, said the CBI was looking "beyond the next election" at manufacturing priorities for the next decade. Asked whether the CBI's proposals were incompatible with Mr Lilley remaining as industry secretary, Mr Banham said it would be wrong to go into personalities, but he specifically rejected the idea that Mr Heseltine was wedded to any outmoded forms of government intervention in industry.

Mr Lilley and Mr Heseltine will address the annual CBI conference, in Bournemouth in two weeks' time, which will debate the report. The document also calls for the adoption by companies of best manufacturing practice, for changes in the financial relationship between banks and companies, and for more effective steps to represent manufacturers' interests.

As part of that, the CBI plans to establish the National Manufacturing Council to research, analyse and promote manufacturing industry.

The DTI denied that it needed refocusing, and said it was working to objectives laid down in 1987 and revised by Mr Lilley. They included trade liberalisation, encouraging competition, extending privatisation and fostering the working of markets.

Mr Lilley last night endorsed the CBI's commitment to manufacturing, but he avoided addressing the CBI's points about his department's role.



Pointing the way: John Banham, outlining the CBI's manufacturing priorities yesterday

## Arrow advice 'watertight'

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE former chief executive of County NatWest, the investment bank, said he believed his executives had taken "watertight" legal advice on the record rights issues made in September 1987 by Blue Arrow, the recruitment group, to fund the takeover of Manpower, its American rival.

On the first day of his evidence, Jonathan Cohen, one of the defendants, said several times that he had been reassured on the legality of the bank's decision to increase the take-up level of the issue from 38 per cent to 49 per cent by buying shares.

Mr Cohen told an Old Bailey jury that David Reed, a former County director, called him at home to tell him about the lower than expected take-up and the decision for County and UBS Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, to buy about 12 per cent of the issue between them. He said he asked Mr Reed if the lawyers and Elizabeth Brimelow, the compliance director, were "happy" and had been assured that they were.

Jeremy Roberts QC, for Mr Cohen, later asked "from beginning to end what was your understanding of the legal advice".

Mr Cohen said he assumed the bank had taken "watertight legal advice".

Two months after the rights

issue, a meeting was held at County to discuss whether to disclose the bank's position and its subsequent losses after the share market crash in October. Mr Cohen said he was in favour of disclosure.

At the meeting, Alan Keat, the bank's legal adviser from the City firm, Travis Smith Braithwaite, had looked "a bit uncomfortable". Mr Cohen said he thought at the time that the bank had got to its position courtesy of Mr Keat's

advice. Earlier this month, Mr Keat was acquitted of joining the alleged conspiracy.

Mr Cohen, Mr Reed, Nicholas Wells, a former County director, Martin Gibbs and Christopher Stainforth, both former UBS Phillips & Drew directors, County NatWest, NatWest Investment Bank and UBS Phillips & Drew, all deny conspiring to mislead the markets over the result of the rights issue.

The trial continues today.

## Lloyd's faces mass US action

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE entire internal membership of the Council of Lloyd's of London, including David Coleridge, the chairman, and Alan Lord, the chief executive, have been named individually in a court action by 64 American Lloyd's names.

The writ, filed in the US district court in Manhattan, New York, by Proskauer, Rose, Goetz & Mendelsohn, the legal firm, alleges violation of federal laws and federal anti-racketeering legislation.

Almost 400 defendants are named in the writ, including 266 syndicates, 16 members' agents, 42 managing agents, and 59 individuals. Many of the most powerful figures in the market are named in the writ, including Murray Lawrence, the former chairman, Stephen Merritt, head of the Merritt underwriting group, and David Rowland, chairman of Sedgwick, who is leading a task force to examine Lloyd's future structure.

The action is the latest, but by far the biggest and most ambitious, of a series of court cases launched in America by loss-making names this year. New York names argue that Lloyd's membership counts as a security under the 1933 Securities Act and that Lloyd's is, therefore, in breach of Securities and Exchange Commission registration requirements. They also believe that members' agents violated anti-fraud regulations when recruiting names in America.

The names have been hit by several catastrophe losses. A number of plaintiffs have lost between \$300,000 and \$500,000 and the total personal losses to date for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 years are more than \$9 million. Under anti-racketeering claims, the plaintiffs can seek treble damages and costs. As in Britain, many of the names were recruited in the mid- and late Eighties, when Lloyd's was short of capacity, and have not benefited from the years of plenty up to 1988.

Lloyd's is expected to argue that the American courts have no jurisdiction over names who effectively sign away their rights to a hearing in overseas courts when they become members. Lloyd's has tried to pre-empt the action by serving writs in the English courts against three of the higher profile American names.

Lloyd's had no comment to make yesterday evening but is certain to fight the action.

## Lower rates fail to boost retail sales

By COLIN NARRBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

RETAIL sales failed to rebound last month after their sharp downturn in August. Lower interest rates and surveys showing mounting confidence proved insufficient to coax the consumer into spending more, provisional government figures have indicated.

Volume sales stagnated in September, instead of recovering from August's 1.2 per cent tumble as expected.

In the City, where a September rise of about 0.3 per cent had been looked for, there was concern that government confidence about a consumer-led recovery may be ill-founded.

John Maples, economic secretary to the Treasury, commenting on the data on the radio, said they were consistent with the "very slow upward trend" in sales since the turn of the year. This, in turn, was in line with the government view of overall economic recovery in the second half of 1991.

Rising consumer confidence would translate into more pronounced consumer demand "soon", he forecast.

Gordon Brown, the shadow spokesman for trade and industry, said that with sales still below the level of a year ago, thousands of jobs in shops and our high streets, as well as factories, workshops and offices would be lost through the autumn and winter.

Given the importance of consumer demand to overall recovery, yesterday's data fuelled uncertainty about the timing and strength of the upturn.

Robert Lind, economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, noted

that, although volume sales, after seasonal adjustment, were 0.7 per cent below September 1990, the latest three months were 0.6 per cent higher than in the previous three months. Year on year, they were 0.4 per cent lower.

Mr Lind said evidence of a recovery in consumer demand was "still thin on the ground". Surveys indicated that the consumer was feeling more confident, but this was not yet feeding into spending.

He attributed this to the consumer's preference for repaying debts built up during the Lawson boom. The weak housing market was also a restraining factor that would keep consumer spending weak this year and only allow a rise of 1 per cent in 1992.

The Retail Consortium, lobby group for the retail trade, hailed the September data on sales in terms of value as a "small, but encouraging improvement". After allowing for inflation, it said the 6 per cent annual increase in value indicated "static" real sales in September after a 2 per cent fall in August.

Fine weather last month was seen as the reason for lower volume clothing sales, as consumers chose not to buy new winter clothes. Food sales were up. Scotland saw the best sales, with London trailing far behind.

James May, director general of the consortium, said it was "premature to talk of any significant recovery". But retailers were cautiously optimistic about Christmas.

Comment, page 23

Comment, page 23

## Fighting for body and soul in US

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

BODY Shop, the ecologically and socially conscious cosmetics chain that is one of the few British retailing success stories in America, is under attack. As Anita Roddick, the group's founder, tours America promoting her book *Body and Soul* - it begins: "I hate the cosmetics industry because it lies, it cheats, it exploits women" - two billion-dollar rivals are spending heavily to enter the politically correct non-animal tested personal care products market.

Without a single penny of advertising, Body Shop's earth-aware products have become popular with thousands of Americans. But Estée Lauder, the \$2 billion cosmetics group that ranks top in department store sales, and The Limited Inc, an aggressive retailer worth almost \$5 billion, are expected to take a more traditional route to grab a share of what Ms Roddick has established as a significant segment of the \$20 billion-a-year American cosmetics market.

Competition is likely to be fierce. Between them, the three groups have 240 stores. But the figure is forecast to



Roddick: hates cosmetics industry

multiply six times in the next three years to 1,500. Body Shop says it will expand its 13 company-owned stores and 67 franchised outlets in America to 120 by the end of next year and to 300 by 1995. That pace will be matched by Estée Lauder's Origins Natural Resources stores, 100 of which have opened since the line's creation in August last year. The Limited's Bath and Body Works has

60 stores, will have 100 by the year-end and 500 by the mid-Nineties. The fight has already reached the courtroom steps. Two months ago, Body Shop reached an out of court settlement with Bath and Body Works over copy-cat stores. Bath and Body has agreed to limit the use of the colour green in its stores - almost a trademark for Body Shop - and will also give its new outlets a more country feel.

Body Shop, founded in the UK in 1976, opened its first store in America almost three years ago, but has only just begun to start showing a profit, although sales have soared: in 1989, sales from 14 stores hit \$1 million, while this financial year 80 stores notched up \$26.2 million in sales. David Edward, the Briton who heads the American operation, acknowledges the severity of the new competition. Retail analysts say the latter may force Ms Roddick to give up her antipathy towards the American shopping mall and may persuade her to use advertising to spread the virtues of pineapple and mango bubble bath and peppermint foot lotion for the American retelling corns on which she is about to tread.

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## NatWest Bancorp reduces losses

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

RECOVERY is under way at National Westminster Bank's American subsidiary, where losses fell sharply in the third quarter after a radical management shake-up.

Net losses at NatWest Bancorp in the three months reached \$65.7 million. Although this was almost double the loss of \$35.3 million in the same period of 1990, it compares with an \$85.1 million deficit in the second quarter, and \$191 million in the first quarter of this year.

The losses were caused by a bad debt provision of \$123 million for the quarter. NatWest Bancorp has now lost \$342 million in the year to date following provisions of \$480 million. The bank is expected to stay in the red for the rest of the year.

Bad debt provisions now total \$676 million, or almost 5 per cent of the bank's total loan book.

Despite the continuing losses, John Tugwell, the chairman of NatWest Bancorp, said the bank showed improvement and that progress would continue in the fourth quarter.

"We are well positioned to accomplish our anticipated return to profitability because our business is sound and costs are under control."

The figures were boosted by a \$15.7 million profit on the sale of securities. This helped to offset a \$7 million fall in net interest income to \$180 million due to the increase in non-performing loans.

## Lasmo offer still weak says Ultramar

By MARTIN BARROW

ULTRAMAR has again rejected Lasmo's £1.2 billion all-share takeover bid and urged shareholders to retain their investment while the diversified oil and gas company prepares its defence.

John Darby, chairman of Ultramar, said that Lasmo's offer document, posted to shareholders yesterday, gave no reason to alter the view that the terms were "totally inadequate in view of the strengths of the business and the true value of the assets".

Lasmo is offering one new share for each Ultramar share, giving Ultramar shareholders 54 per cent of the enlarged company. Yesterday Lasmo shares rose 6p to 321p, helped by news of two field discoveries, while Ultramar shed 6p to 345p, narrowing the gap that opened up last Thursday when the offer was made public.

Lasmo, which proposes to retain Ultramar's upstream interests while disposing of downstream activities, described its target's operational strategy as "irrational", comprising businesses that were geographically disparate and revolved around incompatible products.

The bidders argue that Ultramar's vertical integration is flawed because the majority of its upstream production is gas and liquefied natural gas that is sold to

third parties and cannot be used in the group's refining and marketing businesses. Downstream activities thus rely on crude oil purchased in the open market and exposed to market fluctuations.

Lasmo also claims that Ultramar's gearing of 87 per cent, as reported on June 30, deprives it of the financial resources needed to develop its businesses. The enlarged group would have gearing of around 55 per cent before the disposal of refineries and petrol stations in North America.

Ultramar was also charged with pursuing "an inconsistent dividend policy" after increasing the payout to shareholders by 16.7 per cent in 1990 despite difficult trading conditions and rising gearing levels.

Lasmo has confirmed that it is withdrawing from sale its 30 per cent interest in the Miami Fee oil well in Louisiana following a new discovery described as "significant".

Tests flowed at rates of 23.3 million cubic feet of gas per day and 1,353 barrels of condensate. Full productive capacity of the well will not be known until gas sales begin next week.

Lasmo also holds a 14.7 per cent interest in block 29/2a in the North Sea, 150 miles east of Aberdeen, where Conoco, the operator, has drilled a successful exploration well.

## Buy boosts Amber Day

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

PHILIP Green, the Amber Day chairman and chief executive, is looking forward to a good Christmas despite a 1 per cent drop in same-store sales last year. He believes his What Everyone Wants chain is well positioned to make the most of Christmas with heavily discounted books, videos, toys, perfumes and compact discs as well as clothes.

The group made pre-tax profits of £10.1 million (£3.02 million) in the year to August 3 on sales of £103 million (£31.2 million). Earnings rose from 4.28p to 7.05p and the final dividend is 1.8p, making 2.7p, up 35 per cent.

The rise in profits is due to the success of WEW, which was acquired for £46.7 million last year and contributed £13.1 million to operating profits of £13.9 million. The menswear businesses, Review and Woodhouse, made a £304,000 loss (£1.37 million profit) and the imports and distribution division contributed £1.12 million to profits (£447,000).

Mr Green said the results from WEW represented a net margin of 16.2 per cent and demonstrated the group's ability to increase buying margins, improve stock loss and control markdowns while offering genuine discount prices.

CDs will be on sale in the shops at £1.99 this Christmas and video cassettes at £2.99. Branded perfume at discounted prices will be available in all WEW stores and lingerie departments are being opened.

The group has appointed Graham Coles as financial director and Leslie Warman as a non-executive director. The shares rose 5p to 125p.

Times, page 24



Thoughts on Christmas: Philip Green yesterday

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Aberdeen considering buyout despite loss

IN SPITE of diving to hefty full-year losses, Aberdeen Steak Houses Group is still considering a proposed management buyout that would see Ali Salih, the chairman and 78 per cent shareholder, take the restaurant group private through a buyback offer to shareholders.

The London restaurant chain admitted, however, that buyout activities had been "temporarily shelved" pending an improvement in the economy and completion of the group's disposal programme. Aberdeen suffered a pre-tax loss of £3.27 million in the year to end-December (£166,000 profit) on turnover up from £14.9 million to £16 million. The loss per share surged to 23.5p (1p). The company is again omitting its final dividend.

### Clydesdale improves

THE net asset value at the Clydesdale Investment Trust increased 7.4 per cent to 98.57p a share at the end of September 1991, up from 91.82p a year earlier. Pre-tax revenue rose from £601,000 to £692,000 and total income was £936,000 (£844,000). Earnings per share are 4.11p (3.45p). The final dividend is maintained at 2.45p, making an unchanged total of 3.45p.

### BTR extends Hawker bid

BTR has extended its hostile £1.5 billion offer for Hawker Siddeley Group, the engineering company, until November 1. The offer was launched in September. BTR said it had received acceptance for 1.7 per cent, taking its holding to 2.6 per cent. BTR is offering a mixture of new BTR shares and cash or a £7 cash alternative. Hawker Siddeley shares lost 4p at 738p.

### Tobacco Dock bought

TOBACCO Dock, the shopping centre in London's Docklands, has been acquired by an unnamed British investor for about £15 million from the receivers, Michael Jordan and Robin Addy, of Cork Gully, the accountant.

Contracts have been exchanged but it is understood that the sale of the 130,000 sq ft development in Wapping will not be completed until December 31. Tobacco Dock Developments, its previous owner, invested £50 million in converting the 19th century Grade I listed buildings east of St Katharine Dock into a 58-unit retail complex at the height of the Eighties consumer boom.

### Lovell sells offshoot

YJ LOVELL (Holdings), the housebuilder, property developer and contractor, has sold its Lovell Homes (Scotland) subsidiary, for about £10 million, to Ambion Homes. The move follows a strategic review by the company of its Lovell Homes business. About £5 million of the consideration is payable immediately, with the balance due at the end of next March.

### Bourne End omits payout

SHARPLY higher interest costs took their toll on Bourne End Properties, the property investment group. The company has passed its interim dividend (1p) after suffering a pre-tax loss of £796,000 in the six months to end-June. The group reported a £65,000 profit a year ago. Interest costs were £2.44 million (£1.25 million). There is a 9.6p deficit per share (0.77p earnings).

### D&B to sell Pannell

DEAN & BOWES Group, the specialist pub and hotel refurbisher, is selling its Pannell Signs subsidiary to its management in a move that reduces group debt by £1.1 million and cuts gearing by a quarter to about 60 per cent.

The company will receive £38,900, with the purchaser of Pannell assuming indebtedness amounting to £203,000, along with responsibility for the repayment of the bank overdraft of £1.07 million. Pannell, a Nottingham sign manufacturer supplying the retail and leisure industries, has been hit by the recession and did not contribute to the group's interim operating profits.

## Granada names chief executive

By COLIN CAMPBELL

GRANADA Group has appointed Gerry Robinson, of the Compass Group, as its chief executive, filling a post that had been vacant since May.

Granada added that Alex Bernstein, its executive chairman who had assumed chief executive responsibility when Derek Lewis left the group five months ago, would remain its executive chairman.

Mr Bernstein and Mr Robinson, who leaves Compass

where he was also chief executive, both said that each had their own area of responsibility, and that each looked forward to working together.

Mr Robinson, aged 42, assumes his new role at Granada on November 4 and said he retains an equity interest of almost £3 million in Compass.

Mr Bernstein said it had been a "busy" time fulfilling both executive roles since May, but it had been a good time. Last week, Granada retained its television franchise and sold its non-core Canadian television rental businesses. The group also announced a restructuring of its computer maintenance and services business that involved the loss of 550 jobs.

Mr Bernstein said Granada would now concentrate on its core business, and that there were only a few overseas non-core interests that might yet be sold.

Compass said Francis Mackay, finance director since 1986, would become chief executive with immediate effect.



Robinson: changing posts

## Lilley gives deadline on cable TV

By OUR CITY STAFF

BRITISH cable television operators have been warned to start building their networks by January or risk losing government licences through their delay.

"A small number of franchisees have not committed themselves fully to building the systems they undertook to construct," Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, told a conference of cable operators in London.

"These franchisees are of no benefit to the public," Mr Lilley said, adding they should "either come up with the evidence of financial commitment that my department requires, or clear the field for others." Mr Lilley gave the operators until January 31 to comply. He was supported by Sir Bryan Carsberg, director general of telecommunications, who said he understood the problems some cable companies encountered but that he expected them to stick to their obligations.

Mr Lilley said the expansion of cable had already accelerated in the wake of the trade department's review of the duopoly between BT and Mercury earlier this year.

"At the beginning of last October, six years after the first operator had begun service, only 25 systems were in operation. Broadband cable had been made available to 700,000 homes, of which 118,000 had been connected up," he said.

"Just one year later, cable systems in 45 franchises are operating. The number of homes able to receive broadband cable services exceeded 1 million for the first time in June."

### Neste offer

Neste, the Finnish oil company, has declared unconditional its £84.3 million recommended cash offer for Sovereign Oil & Gas, the independent company. Neste claims 86.1 per cent of the company.

## Lonrho loses court action

By A CORRESPONDENT

LONRHO, the trading conglomerate headed by Tiny Rowland, failed yesterday to force the government into seeking to disqualify the Fayed brothers from their company directorships.

Lonrho sought a ruling in the High Court that Nicholas Ridley, the former trade and industry secretary, fell into legal error when he refused to seek disqualification orders in March 1990 after the publication of a report by his department.

Mr Rowland has been pursuing the Fayed since they stymied his attempt to buy the House of Fraser and its flagship store, Harrods.

Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice McCullough ruled that Mr Ridley had not acted perversely or unreasonably

after the DTI report accused the Fayed of lying to gain control of House of Fraser with their takeover bid.

Lord Justice Neill said: "I have found it impossible to say that it was perverse or that the only lawful and proper decision, having regard to matters revealed in the report, was to make an application to the court under the 1986 Company Directors Disqualification Act."

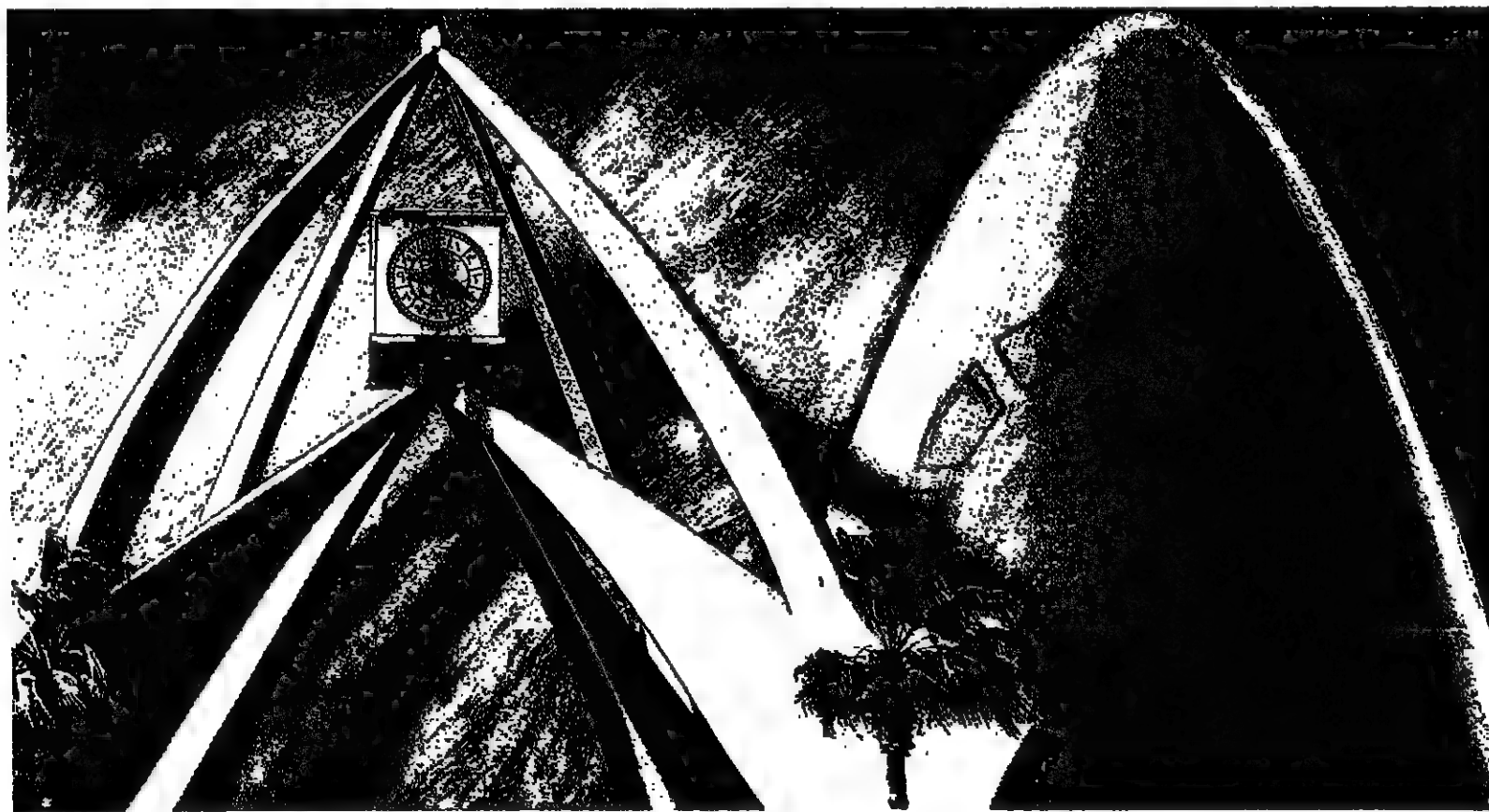
Mr Justice McCullough agreed and the court ordered Lonrho to pay the government's legal costs in defending Mr Ridley's stance. It refused to make a similar order in favour of Mohamed, Ali and Salah Fayed. Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said an appeal was being considered.

Counsel for Lonrho argued that the only permissible

course open to Mr Ridley following publication of the DTI report was to seek disqualification of the Fayed from remaining as company directors. The report concluded the Fayed dishonestly misrepresented their origins, wealth, business interests and resources to the secretary of state, the Office of Fair Trading, the press, House of Fraser, the company's shareholders and their own advisers.

Dismissing the application, the judges said it was not for them to substitute their own view about the findings of the DTI inspectors, which were "very serious indeed", ruling whether or not Mr Ridley had arrived at a decision that no reasonable secretary of state could have made on the evidence before him.

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Emirates



## Who speaks for British industry?

### COMMENT

That Britain can still be a superb place to make things, as the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday, is clear from the standard set by such inward investors as Nissan and Sony. That the most frequently quoted examples of good manufacturing in Britain are often now Japanese companies could not illustrate more clearly the size of the gap the CBI is setting out to address in its new proposals to improve the performance, standing and image of British manufacturing.

Characteristically, John Banham, the CBI's ebullient director-general, spends much of his time in the CBI's new report, *Competing with the world's best*, stressing what British manufacturing has already achieved in the past decade, and the fact that much of the transformation of British industry has been completed — but better noticed abroad than at home.

To reverse the gloomy perception, if not the performance, of British industry, the CBI is proposing an array of recommendations. Two stand out. The first is for the formation

of a National Manufacturing Council, which would emphasise manufacturing through such means as a hopefully definitive annual state of the nation report on manufacturing, as well as drawing up proposals to improve the international competitiveness of UK industry.

What this masks is the simple fact that British industry has too many voices speaking for it, and suffers as a result. The CBI itself, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Institute of Directors and the Engineering Employers' Federation are only the most notable. Here is a case where market-based competition, in this case to represent British industry, simply sounds like Babel babble.

Efforts to reform this oversupply have not been spectacularly successful. Recent plans to draw the CBI and EEF together have misfired, largely because they were badly handled. The EEF was being gobbled up by the

CBI, but the CBI should have at least tried to make it look as though that was not so.

The second recommendation is the CBI's proposals for radically refocusing the beleaguered department of trade and industry. The Whitehall rumour machine has had its knives out for some time for Peter Lilley, the industry secretary, though his good performance at the Conservative party conference has brought a temporary end to the whispers.

But the more openly interventionist role the CBI is proposing for the DTI — interventionist, at least, internationally and in Brussels in particular — might be sweet music for Michael Heseltine at a revamped, post-Tory election victory DTI, but does not square much with Mr Lilley's view of the department as

primarily interested in regulation and the promotion of competition.

What is clear is that the best manufacturers in the world, such as Japan and Germany, do see a role for government in industry. That was anathema to Margaret Thatcher's administration, and it is at least arguable that British industry has suffered as a result, if nowhere else than in the new corridors of power in Brussels. Without necessarily embracing the open interventionism promoted by Labour, there is little reason why the successful relationship of government and business in Tokyo and Bonn should not be replicated in London.

The CBI is right to raise the issue. Mr Lilley may not like it, but with the Whitehall wind at the back of his neck, he may not

have much choice. If John Major is minded towards a revitalisation of the DTI as a means of improving the international competitiveness of UK industry, then the CBI proposals are a good starting point.

### Party pooper

Ministers who have been beating a drum in anticipation of consumer-led recovery from recession seem so far to have overlooked one important matter — the consumer. To date he has shown a marked reluctance to turn up at the party. September retail sales figures show a small decline year on year. This is hardly an encouragement to accept the rosy view that the worst is over and that the economy has finally turned the corner.

City economists have been expecting even a statistical appearance of buoyancy in retail

activity following the dismal drop in consumer spending recorded during August. Alas, it was not to be.

As the final quarter of the year wears on, the consumer is for all the world giving the appearance of a bad case of shell-shock, more concerned at paying down debts accumulated during the long months when base rates held steady at the punitive 15 per cent level. The truth is that most homeowners are now devoting considerably less of their income in both absolute and proportionate terms to servicing mortgages. But there appears to be little sign of those lower mortgage payments, which may average as much as £150 a month in the London area, driving the economy forward.

The Chancellor may now have to rely on increased output from the North Sea, a fairly safe bet given the depressed figures of last year, to substantiate his claim that the decline in economic activity is being reversed. He must be praying for fine weather between now and New Year's eve. For a storm or two could still blow him off course.

## Why British firms are missing out in battle to rebuild Kuwait

Six months after the end of the Gulf war, Britain's ability to win contracts is disappointing

AN AIR of disappointment is set to overshadow the arrival of Tim Sainsbury, the trade minister, in Kuwait next week.

Six months after the end of the Gulf war, early expectations of a \$100 billion reconstruction bonanza for Western firms have been sharply modified.

According to John Wakeham, the energy secretary, restoring Kuwait's infrastructure and the full level of oil production which underpins its prosperity is likely to cost between \$20 billion and \$30 billion.

But the Kuwaitis may also raise their eyebrows at the failure of British bankers to back their country's first attempt to raise a \$5 billion loan that will fund the reconstruction programme until oil output is restored to former levels.

Today, JP Morgan, the loan co-ordinator, will close the list of loan lead managers. The list already includes more than 20 of the world's largest banks, among them Citibank, Deutsche Bank and the Industrial Bank of Japan, each of which has committed up to \$250 million to the loan.

British banks threaten to be notable by their absence, although the loan has been organised in London. British bankers insist that their reluctance to participate has been based on sound commercial principals.

"If Kuwait had come to the market with a project finance-related deal it would have interested us more," said one. "Alternatively, they should have offered some asset backing, and the Kuwait Investment Office has plenty of assets to choose from."

Since the Seventies, when banks lent, and lost, billions of dollars in unsecured loans to Latin America, banks have had a phobia about sovereign lending that is only overcome



Burning bright: the British role in putting out fires has been disappointing

by large doses of security. The British banks also dislike the return on the proposed investment. At 50 basis points over the London interbank offered rate, the loan is keenly priced, and the front end fees have not been high enough to persuade them to open their pockets.

The banks have excused themselves on the basis of capital constraints. JP Morgan has not been impressed by the argument. "Every other bank in the world faces these same capital constraints," said its spokesman. Despite this, the last few hours before the

syndicate is fixed is being spent trying to entice at least one British bank into the lead management group.

Worried officials from the trade department rang round the institutions last week to assess the situation, but ministers have so far refrained from twisting arms, despite fears that the interests of British businessmen in Kuwait may suffer if Britain fails to assist with funding redevelopment.

Such fears may be misplaced, however. Early spending by the Kuwaitis concentrated on two priorities. First,

they had to oversee the restoration of the basic infrastructure of water, power and transport facilities.

Second, they had to bring about the speedy extinction of 735 oil well fires started by the Iraqis. Both initial goals are all but achieved. More than 600 wells have now been capped, and the Kuwaitis believe all fires will be out by mid-November, six months ahead of schedule.

The British role in this is another of the disappointments Mr Sainsbury will have to face. The Kuwaiti British

Fire Group (KBFG), made up of Amec, Taylor Woodrow and Wimpey, has been appointed to extinguish 80 fires in the Sabriya field, and restore the flow of oil to a central gathering station.

Negotiations over the part of the contract for restoring production took so long that it was only last week that KBFG's contractors put out their first well-head fire. The contractors involved appear deeply unhappy at the unsatisfactory progress of Britain's most prominent contract.

Despite an unprecedented campaign of support visits by British ministers, including John Major, the prime minister, British companies have won few large contracts in Kuwait. By the end of September, they had secured a total of 83 contracts, together valued at £316 million. The average contract value — just £3.8 million — provides clear evidence of the nature of the work. Kuwait is not being rebuilt: it is being refurbished. Large infrastructure and oil production works will not be commissioned until the latest round of funding is secured. Even when large contracts are placed, British companies are more likely to benefit from the "cascade" effect, as sub-contracts for materials and components are placed, than from primary works.

Michael Brooch, a Middle East trade specialist at the Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has been involved with many small and medium-sized firms that have been seeking work in Kuwait. He says that those that have been successful are often companies that have a track record in exporting to the Middle East, and which are dealing with Arab-owned primary contractors.

Before the war, Britain was Kuwait's fourth biggest trading partner, supplying £229 million of goods, or 6.5 per cent of Kuwait's total overseas purchases, in 1989.

Most British firms that have won business in Kuwait this year have done so because they have offered the best combination of quality and price. Those factors are likely to remain the determinants of success in the future.

ROSS TIEMAN AND NEIL BENNETT

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Taxing time for Lloyd's names Touch of glamour

From Mr K. C. L. Webb  
Sir, Would you kindly allow me, through your columns, to draw attention to the failure of the Inland Revenue to deal promptly with refunds due to members of Lloyd's who have sustained substantial losses on their 1988 underwriting account and indeed earlier years.

This inaction on their part is causing grave hardship to the members concerned. I am not here seeking to raise the question of how such losses occurred — when I became an underwriting member I was made fully aware of the risks involved, which I accepted, and am now endeavouring to meet my obligations.

I am informed by my accountants that I will not receive any repayments until June 1992 — three years overdue. One of the reasons given, I understand, is that members of Lloyd's cannot expect to receive preferential treatment vis-à-vis other taxpayers. For my part, I am not asking for exceptional treatment but if this is the view the Revenue take, surely it is up to them to update their administrative procedures by taking on more staff if need be and adopting whatever other steps are necessary to deal with the overall backlog.

I do not need a lecture on the technicalities involved relating to the so-called "open years" — the fact is that many of us have already been called upon to fund losses on the 1989 year of account which, due to the Lloyd's system of accounting, has not yet been finalised. If the will to co-operate was there I am sure the Revenue could overcome any difficulties that might exist. In this respect it may be relevant to point out that the chairman of Lloyd's at the

#### Duped by dummy

From Mr R. Irving  
Sir, Today's post brought a "Company Services" brochure offering a PLC registered company for as little as £250. Last year I was duped (as were many others) into investing in a company with an impressive title.

The Serious Fraud Office told me they had long since brought this easy avenue for fraud to the notice of the authorities but no action has resulted.

I shall happily vote for the party whose manifesto promises to close the doors of dummy PLCs.  
Yours faithfully,  
RONALD IRVING,  
57 York Street, W1.

annual general meeting last June found himself having to state, in response to a question, that he and the Council of Lloyd's had received no help from the Inland Revenue in the immediate past.

Is it a fact, I wonder, as some Lloyd's auditors have concluded, that Lloyd's as a whole is being punished by the Revenue for the sins of the few? If this is true it is most improper and in any event such misdemeanours occurred nearly a decade ago.

I read a headline recently "Is the taxman in debt to you?". He certainly is in our case and yet if we are late in paying our tax bills, even by a few days, a penalty is instantly imposed. So much for the highly vaunted taxpayer's charter.

Yours truly,  
K. C. L. WEBB,  
Underwriting member for Lloyd's (1937-1989),  
14-18 St Clare Street, EC3.

From Ms Elizabeth Golden  
Sir, I am a shareholder in Williams Holdings, a nice little company from South Wales but with a most unprepossessing name. What they really need is a new image; a new name; something with a touch of glamour; what about "Racal Welsh"?

Yours etc,  
ELIZABETH GOLDEN,  
118 Barnfield Avenue,  
Kingston upon Thames,  
Surrey.

#### ... but how?

From Ms Nicola Beresford  
Sir, "Ratners to go down-market" proclaims the front page of the business section (October 10) — how? Yours faithfully,  
NICOLA BERESFORD,  
43 Woodlands Drive,  
Loughborough,  
Leicestershire.

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### PR route to raising cash

THE turbulent world of City financial public relations is about to be turned on its head yet again if Charles Stewart-Smith has his way. Stewart-Smith, who stepped down as producer of *News at Ten* last week, is teaming up with George Fletcher, industrial editor of *Observer*, to advise City companies on press relations. They are forming a consultancy called Luther Pendragon — soundly remarkably like Uther Pendragon, father of King Arthur — and hope to use it towards achieving a yet grander ambition. "I want to go into independent programme production but need to generate cash flow," says Stewart-Smith. He and Fletcher have written a book, *The Public Face*, and hope to encourage City executives to deal with the press directly, cutting out the middlemen.

OUT-OF-FAVOUR executives will note with concern the latest tactics apparently being employed at *Silentsnight*, one

of the largest bed manufacturers in Britain. "The disposal of the upholstery division along with the chief executive was an interesting move," notes Ruth Keatch, smaller companies analyst at *Granville*, in a circular. In a depressed market, what price chief executives?

Felling foul  
JOHN Aldersley, a Smith New Court analyst whose gains and losses in weight have tracked the stock market remarkably well over the years — he has produced a graph to demonstrate this curious fact — plans a trip to Sri Lanka. One evening last week, he went to his doctor to have the necessary injections. But no sooner was his sleeve rolled up and the needle poised than Aldersley fainted. The irony, his colleagues point out, is that he specialises in the health and

household sector. Now, wherever he goes in the firm, the poor chap is plagued by raucous cries of "Timber!"

No home fires  
NAMES at Lloyd's will not thank the North American branch of the Association of Lloyd's Members for holding



their latest beano in San Francisco. On the last occasion they did so, the biggest earthquake in more than 80 years hit the city, leaving Lloyd's syndicates with a \$1 billion bill to pick up. This time, just to vary the programme, the unfortunate delegates have raging fires in Oakland and a state of emergency to contend with. Once again, it will probably be Lloyd's names that ultimately have to dig into their pockets to cover the cost. Suffice it to say, the welcome mat is not likely to be laid out next time the A.L.M. rolls into town.

#### Light side of dark

DARK glasses may be in order when Graham Verby of Chase Manhattan Bank tackles the New York marathon next month. Verby, who is European research manager at the bank's London office, has

been getting into shape for the race by running to work each morning — almost entirely in the dark. Starting at 4 am, he has been running the ten miles from his home in Barking to the City in little more than 1½ hours, leaving time for a quick shower before settling down at his desk at 6 am. "I have covered over 300 miles in the preparation so far," pants Verby, who is running on behalf of Whizz-Kidz, a charity that provides wheelchairs for disabled children.

#### Help to mature

DETERMINED to hang on to its crown as the City's most "charitable" firm, Nomura, the world's biggest securities house, seems to have found another winner — a wine-tasting session at Sotheby's. The firm hopes to lure 300 people to the Christmas event with the promise of wine and champagne in abundance and

some generous prizes, including two-week holidays in California. Nomura's Max Bascombe, a keen yachtsman and now, it appears, budding connoisseur, hopes the occasion will raise at least £25,000 for the Children in Cities appeal. Nomura last revealed its competitive edge during the summer's Rat Race, in which brokers and dealers dressed as rats had to navigate their way through the Square Mile.

#### Wundesbank

DOES Helmut Schlesinger and his team know something that we do not? Germany's five leading research institutes expect the Bundesbank to transfer a record DM15 billion (DM8.27 billion) to the federal government next year. Private economists predicting a DM16 billion profit for the Bundesbank, with DM15 billion marks to be transferred to Bonn. Perhaps European bankers pay should be linked to profitability, not the ability to cut inflation — as has been suggested for the Bank of England.

JON ASHWORTH







## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Falls across the board

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 14. Dealings end October 25. \$Contango day October 28. Settlement day November 4.  
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

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149	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	7.8	2.8
150	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	11.5	2.8
151	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
152	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
153	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
154	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
155	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
156	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
157	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
158	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
159	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
160	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
161	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
162	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
163	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
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167	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
168	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
169	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
170	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
171	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
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173	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
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193	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
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195	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
196	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
197	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
198	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
199	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8
200	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	16.8	1.8

### PROPERTY

1991 No.	City	Law Company	Part Time	Other	Class or Other	10% P	P/E
191	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	7.8	2.8
192	San Jose	San Jose	77	-	-	11.5	2.8

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[illegible]

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

[illegible]

10	42	MEPC	101	40	-11	28.5	5.5	14.1
20		McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
30	10	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
40	20	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
50	30	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
60	40	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
70	50	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
80	60	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
90	70	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
100	80	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
110	90	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
120	100	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
130	110	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
140	120	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
150	130	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
160	140	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
170	150	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
180	160	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
190	170	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
200	180	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
210	190	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
220	200	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
230	210	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
240	220	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
250	230	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
260	240	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
270	250	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
280	260	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
290	270	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
300	280	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
310	290	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
320	300	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
330	310	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
340	320	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
350	330	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
360	340	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
370	350	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
380	360	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
390	370	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
400	380	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
410	390	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
420	400	McKinnay	140	100	-40	10.0	1.0	10.0
430	410	McKay Goss	140	100	-40	8.0	1.7	11.7
440	420	McKinnay	140	1				

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

772	559	BAT	942	650	-5	42.3	0.8	28.8
1176	926	Northman 10'	1194	1194	-	26.7	2.1	14.4
<b>TRANSPORT</b>								
494	187	Assoc. Br Ports	368	372	-1	50.1	2.7	18.9
237	125	Br Airlines	448	453	-5	47.3	3.8	18.8
237	138	Caribbean (H)	203	205	-1	11.8	3.6	18.6
220	55	Dowco & Resources	207	210	-3	70.7	5.1	40.2
59	280	Consolidated Lines	18	18	F +1	-	-	-
28	116	Eastcoastal Vessels	416	416	-	-	-	-

176	73	Qing	180	10	5.3	5.0	8.4
178	100	Qing	177	-0.2	-1.3	3.0	17.6
180	100	Qing	180	0	0	3.0	17.6
182	11	Lee	181	-1	-1	1.2	1.2
187	12	Lee	181	-1	-2		
192	25	Manchester Ship	186	17	8.0	0.4	15.8
200	100	Qing	200	0	0	3.0	17.6
221	118	MFC	228	280	3	3.4	20.0
233	287	Qing Dong	235	283	-3	19.0	23.0
235	287	Qing Dong	235	283	-3	19.0	23.0
236	287	Qing Dong	235	283	-3	19.0	23.0
237	287	P & O	503	507	+1	76.7	81.1
238	287	P & O 5.5%	505	512	+3	78.3	82.7
239	287	Qing Dong	303	303	0	30.0	30.0
240	287	TP Europe	73	73	0	2.3	2.1
244	32	TP	49	50	+1	12.9	13.8
245	32	TP	49	50	+1	12.9	13.8
246	32	TP	49	50	+1	12.9	13.8
247	32	TP	49	50	+1	12.9	13.8
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397	32	TP	49	50	+1	12.9	13.8
398	32	TP	49	50	+1	12.9	13.8
399	32	TP	49	50	+1	12.9	13.8
400	32	TP	49	50	+1	12.9	13.8

WATER									
438	281	Angeleno Water	355	365	-8	23.3	6.5	7.8	
439	282	Alhambra Water	355	374	-19	24.8	6.5	7.8	
395	521	North West	380	364	-7	24.0	6.5	5.8	
396	320	Somers Trunk	322	327	-5	23.4	7.2	5.1	
397	371	Glenn Water	323	323	0	20.6	7.2	6.1	
379		Glenn Water	327	327	-13	26.7	7.8	5.2	
400	238	Thames Water	330	330	-5	23.3	6.5	4.9	
401	239	Thames Water	337	337	-7	22.0	7.2	7.4	
404		Wichita Water	357	362	-7	22.0	7.2	7.4	
405	284	Wichita Water	359	359	-8	22.8	6.5	7.1	

Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Issuance  
 d Payment received f Price at acquisition g Dividend paid  
 h Excludes a special payment i Pre-merger figures n  
 Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or  
 share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.



# Macarthy bid battle hots up with threat to supplier

By MARTIN BARROW

MACARTHY, the drug retailer and manufacturer, has given Medicopharma, its main supplier, 30 days to respond to charges that it is in breach of contract.

John Read, the Macarthy chairman, has asked Medicopharma to spell out why it has failed to post updated prices for the year from October 1, and threatened to take its business, worth £40 million a year, elsewhere unless a satisfactory explanation is forthcoming.

The dispute erupted as Macarthy prepares to publish its final defence against a hostile bid by Grampian Holdings, the Scottish conglomerate, worth £78 million. Ian Parsons, Macarthy chief executive, said the all-shares offer was "wholly unwelcome."

Relations between Macarthy and Medicopharma, of The Netherlands, are believed to have deteriorated after the third and final offer from Grampian last week, when Bill Hughes, Grampian's chairman, outlined details of a probable collaboration agreement between the enlarged group and Medicopharma.

Mr Hughes said Grampian



Outlined details: Bill Hughes, Grampian chairman

would introduce Medicopharma's Mediphase stock control system and widen the use of own label products supplied by Medicopharma. These pro-

posals stunned Macarthy and its advisers, which gave warning that existing trading links had been jeopardised by Medicopharma's apparent en-

terness to negotiate with a company that is in open conflict with its largest customer.

The dispute threatens to disrupt an investigation by the monopolies commission into bids for Macarthy by UniChem, the drugs wholesaler, and Lloyds Chemists.

Their bids were referred by the Office of Fair Trading over concern about competition in the wholesaling of prescription drugs. In particular, the OFT sought clarification of the position of Medicopharma, which is perceived as the only substantial barrier to the formation of a duopoly comprising UniChem and AAH Holdings.

Macarthy's preferred partner was Lloyds and Mr Parsons was bitterly disappointed when the £83 million offer of cash and shares was halted by the OFT. The company is deeply concerned by the threat of Grampian gaining control while Lloyds' offer is on ice and plans to publish a hard-hitting defence document tomorrow that will raise questions about Grampian's gearing, off-balance sheet debt and profits from property disposals.

## Eastern Germany 'will grow 12%'

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EASTERN Germany is on course to grow by 12 per cent in 1992, while the western German economy will slow to an annual growth rate of 2 per cent, according to a joint report by Germany's five leading economic institutes.

"The steep decline in the east German economy appears to have stopped," it said, noting that the bottoming-out probably came in July, a year after monetary union. The report voiced concern, however, that too much of the growth was based on government money, rather than self-sustaining activity.

The institutes' generally upbeat view of the eastern economy, which has shrunk by almost a fifth this year, does nothing to allay fears about inflationary pressures arising from unification.

In its latest monthly report, the Bundesbank gave a fresh warning that huge public-sector deficits could threaten price stability, growth and jobs.

The report acknowledged that consumer price inflation in western Germany slowed in September to an annual 3.9 per cent from 4.1 per cent in August but observed that,

when seasonal factors were excluded, the rise was actually sharper.

The institutes underlined that a return to growth in eastern Germany would be insufficient to prevent unemployment rising. Gross national product there is forecast to expand by 12 per cent in 1992 after two years of slump.

Recovery in the east will contribute to pan-German growth of 2.5 per cent in 1992, up from a modest 1.5 per cent this year. Western Germany will slow to 2 per cent from 3.5 per cent this year.

However, an average of 1.5 million people, almost 19 per cent of the workforce, will be unemployed in the east, despite massive government expenditure on job creating and retraining schemes. The average jobless total this year will be 950,000, an unemployment rate of 11.5 per cent.

There is general concern about pay demands. Jürgen Möllemann, the economics minister, joined the chorus, saying settlements should not exceed 4 per cent.

Japan's money supply growth hit a record low in September, boosting hopes of a fresh cut in the discount rate.

## Britain provides wind beneath the expanding wings of Norway

Soaring business with the Northeast has prompted Braathens to look for growth beyond Norway, writes Peter Davenport

Braathens, the Norwegian airline that opened its first UK route this year with a service to Newcastle, has been forced to draw up plans for extra flights to cope with demand. Initial business projections for the service to and from northeast England have proved to be overly cautious after six months of operations. The company is also looking at other British destinations, including Manchester, Glasgow and Aberdeen.

Erik Braathen, grandson of the founder and now president and chief executive officer, said that while the domestic Norwegian market will continue to provide the company's main business sector, it is anticipating opportunities for growth with the easing of European aviation restrictions. Although not a member of the European Community, Norway has an agreement that gives its airlines the chance to operate in competition with those of member states.

Mr Braathen said: "There is a limit to how many passengers one can get out of a market in Norway of just above 4 million people. With 3.5 million passengers annually we are doing pretty well already, and with new opportunities in Europe, our potential for growth lies in creating new services on niche routes."

The company is spending about \$400 million on a fleet replacement programme that will give it 25 new Boeing 737-400s and -500s by 1995. Officials at its headquarters on the outskirts of Oslo say they can sustain such a comparatively large investment on a profit margin of 15 per cent of operating revenue of £250 million. It is currently earning about 14.2 per cent. But it is the unexpected success of the Newcastle-Oslo and Newcastle-Stavanger and Bergen routes that is causing Braathens executives to look again at growth potential.

In the first six months of operation, the airline carried 10,500 passengers between the Northeast and the Norwegian capital, against a projection of 6,600. On the Stavanger-Bergen route, the 21,000 customers represented a 196 per cent increase on estimates. The two routes have recorded a joint operating revenue of

more than £3 million against a projection of about £800,000.

Braathens took over the Newcastle-Norway routes from Dan Air and now operates nine flights a week from the Northeast. That number is being increased to 12 next year.

The company has traded on the strong historical, business and cultural links between the Northeast and Scandinavia, and is capitalising on a relatively high level of disposable income in the region compared with more financially hard-pressed areas of Britain. It is also benefiting from the resurgence in the Norwegian oil industry by providing an efficient freight link with Aberdeen. Christmas shopping flights to the region are also popular with Norwegian families.

Mike Rigby, Braathens' regional manager in Newcastle, said only about 15 per cent of passengers on the Oslo route and about 20 per cent on the Stavanger-Bergen run are businessmen. He hopes these percentages will grow significantly.

For almost 40 years, the red and white livery of aircraft in the Braathens fleet has been an increasingly familiar sight in the skies over Norway. Since it launched its first internal passenger route in 1952, the family owned airline has grown to become the largest in the country, carrying more than 3.3 million passengers a year. It serves 15 Norwegian airports, from Kristiansand in the south to Spitsbergen, the most northerly scheduled flight in the world, nearing the permanent ice and snow of the North Pole.

Given the geography and population distribution of the country, air transport is often the only means of inter-regional travel. Braathens claims a 50.7 per cent share of the Norwegian domestic market this year, its main rival being SAS.

Until the creation of SAS in the Fifties, Braathens had operated limited services overseas but there was a political decision to grant the new airline a monopoly on international routes from Scandinavia. It was not until 1988 that Braathens was granted another international route licence - between Oslo and Billund in Denmark.

## Venezuela seeks more investment

By COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

VENEZUELA, rich in several mineral deposits ranging from gold to coal, is anxious to encourage renewed foreign investment, Francisco Gutiérrez, the country's director general for mines and geology, has told London investors.

Dr Gutiérrez, on a private visit to London, said the government was speeding up bureaucratic procedures under which mining licences and permits are granted. "Previously, it might have taken between two and eight years to approve a concession. I see no reason why such procedures should not be finalised within a minimum of 24 days and a maximum of 36 days," Dr Gutiérrez told *The Times*. The "red tape" associated with mining and exploration plans would also be cut, he said.

Oil and gas had concentrated the minds of international mining companies,

but Venezuela was rich in a host of other deposits in which British and other foreign companies were showing an increasing interest, he added.

Companies that have been active "on the ground" in Venezuela include Monarch Resources, Greenwich, Placer, the north American group, the Royal Dutch Shell group, and Eni, the state-owned Italian group.

Mining accounted for between 8 and 10 per cent of Venezuela's GDP, and the rate of inflation was currently 9 per cent.

The country was rich in coal, manganese, nickel, zinc, copper, phosphates and other deposits, including diamonds, he said.

Significant changes to the country's tax regime had been made this year, including the halving of tax on mining profits from 60 per cent to 30 per cent.

## P&P shares tumble after profit warning

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in P&P slumped from 101p to 50p after the computer services company gave warning that it was unlikely to make a profit in the second half, leaving full-year earnings "substantially below market expectations".

David Southworth, managing director, blamed manufacturers' pricing policies and a decline in capital expenditure because of the recession. Cost-cutting measures are being implemented, and the company has already announced

60 redundancies after several years of heavy recruitment.

Before the warning, profit forecasts ranged between £6 million pre-tax and £8 million for the year to end-November, compared with £13.1 million for the previous year.

The company is, however, likely to break even, at best, in the second half. First-half profits were £3.3 million (£6.8 million). P&P has pledged to maintain the final dividend at 3p a share, making 4.33p for the year, up from 4.25p.

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## LAW TIMES

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# Keeping libel out of court

An arbitration scheme to deal with defamation claims against the media has been recommended by the Neill committee. Alastair Brett reports

Rarely does the legal profession, that most stuffy and conservative of professions, come up with a good idea and point the unruly but creative world of journalism in the right direction. However, as national newspapers face the possibility of a Labour government introducing privacy and right-of-reply legislation, proprietors would be wise to heed the advice of Lord Justice Neill, the respected Court of Appeal judge, and his working group on media law.

Only last year the press was given a final chance to put its house in order or face government intervention and a statutory Press Complaints Commission armed with swingeing powers to regulate press behaviour. The warning came from the Committee on Privacy under the chairmanship of David Calcutt, QC, which recommended the abolition of the Press Council and the establishment of a new tougher, streamlined Press Complaints Commission.

Although the commission is still in its infancy, Roy Hattersley, Labour's home affairs spokesman, is threatening legislation of the kind rejected by the Calcutt committee. However, while the Labour party toys with repressive legislation as the *quid pro quo* for introducing a freedom of information bill, a working group set up by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, under Lord Justice Neill has come up with some valuable recommendations on resolving disputes in the vexed area of media law.

The group's report came out in July and comments are invited by the beginning of November.

The Neill working group says that by introducing a voluntary arbitration system, or alternative disputes resolution procedure, the press could "help to stave off the possibility of statutory intervention at a time when there is a perception in some quarters that the Press Complaints Commission is not providing as effective a means of redress as was originally hoped".

After the Calcutt report on privacy, the Neill report on libel and slander is welcome, particularly after "excessive and disproportionate" damages awards by juries in celebrated libel actions. The media have campaigned hard to have this area of law reformed. Now it needs to exert all its influence to ensure that the Neill recommendations are fully implemented and not allowed to gather dust as did the Faulks committee report on defamation after Labour gained power in 1974.

The Neill working group says it rapidly concluded that tinkering at the periphery of this esoteric area of law with procedural points on plead-

ings in libel actions was no good. Any change had to be substantive. Lord Mackay indicated he would receive any sensible proposals for reform in this area of the law, with two exceptions - trial by jury and the absence of legal aid in libel actions - that he said were not susceptible to change.

The Neill report is a well balanced document, which should commend itself not only to the press but also to the public. In particular those in politics and entertainment, who are the regular butt of intrusion and attack by reporters from the popular press.

The main proposal is that newspapers be given a chance to curtail libel actions by making an "offer of amends". This would include both a correction and apology and a willingness by the newspaper to pay damages to be assessed by a judge alone if agreement could not be reached between the parties.

By thus behaving "fairly and reasonably", newspapers would be given an absolute defence to that "small minority of plaintiffs who wish to proceed to trial from purely financial motives", and from the "gold-digging" actions, as they are referred to later in the report.

The report also recommends that the "meaning" of the words complained of should be capable of resolution at an early date, that libel actions should be brought within a year of publication, that the defence of qualified privilege should be extended to protect foreign government reports and official statements (subject to a complainant being allowed a right of reply) and, most interestingly, that "encouragement should be given to the establishment of a voluntary arbitration system for defamation complaints".

This last recommendation, modified and extended, might be the key to avoiding repressive and complex privacy and right-of-reply legislation by a hostile Labour government. The Neill working group rightly says "the most obvious injustice" in this area of law is the absence of legal aid for



Better news: Ian Hislop, *Private Eye's* editor, after Sonia Sutcliffe's record damages were cut on appeal from £600,000 to £60,000. Legal costs were estimated at £100,000

those unjustifiably attacked by the media. With the burden on defendants to prove their innocence in libel actions, many people, including it appears, Lord Mackay, believe legal aid should not be available for such plaintiffs. If it were, the legal aid authorities could easily find themselves funding highly speculative libel actions by plaintiffs who were being too "economical with the truth" in an attempt to see whether the newspaper or broadcasting company could prove what it had said about them.

The lack of legal aid does, however, create a problem when, as the report says, there is an "increasing appetite for stories about ordinary and otherwise un-newsworthy people of a 'human interest' nature". That normally means something to do with sex. The group concedes that there has been a dramatic change in press behaviour in recent years, largely due to huge libel awards. Yet there is still a view that "the most significant gap" in the Press Complaints Commission's powers is the inability to award compensation.

This is particularly noticeable where press intrusion into an individual's private life amounts, in the words of Lord Justice Bingham, to a "monstrous invasion of privacy", as when two *Sunday Sport* journalists invaded the actor Gordon Kaye's hospital bedroom when he had undergone surgery after a serious accident.

The commission's remit is to uphold the "highest professional and ethical standards" in journalism. However, without the ability to compensate victims for breaches of the Press Code of Practice and with only a "watered down" version of the Calcutt Code of Conduct in place, there are those in the Labour party and elsewhere who consider the commission little more than a revamped Press Council or "watchdog with rubber dentures".

In this climate, the Neill working group looked at other ways of resolving media disputes. The group rejected the idea of giving statutory powers to the Press Complaints Commission to award limited amounts of compensation because it thought this would "impose a major obstacle to the speedy and informal resolution of disputes", but it favoured the idea of newspaper editors "subscribing to an arbitration service, funded by proprietors for the resolution of some disputes, whereby, if successful, complainants could recover compensation up to a modest limit".

This voluntary arbitration system, funded by the media, would not deal with cases where there "was a significant factual dispute" but would be well placed to help in those cases where legal aid was not available and where the meaning of words or the Press Code of Practice had been breached and the complainant was entitled to some compensation.

As the draft Neill report states, this tentative proposal, recommended and supported by *The Times*, is seen as "very promising". Informal contacts by the Neill working group with the Bar and the Law Society also led it to believe that this voluntary system, with members of the legal profession sitting as informal arbitrators, should be explored in great detail.

Only when the media have taken steps to police their own patch and offered the "disfranchised majority" a means of resolving disputes so that "honour is truly satisfied" and a modest award of compensation possible will threats from Labour or the government of the day finally recede.

● The author is the company solicitor for Times Newspapers

## When your lawyer may tell on you

THE recent acquittal of Alan Keat, a partner in one of the most respected firms of City solicitors, Travers Smith Braithwaite, has once again cast a spotlight on that principle so central to the solicitor's profession - client confidentiality.

When can a solicitor disclose information received in confidence from a client? Many lay people and even some solicitors believe that anything a client tells a lawyer must be kept confidential.

This is not the case, and has probably never been the case. More than a century ago, in the case of *R v Cox & Railton*, Mr Justice Stephen said communications made by the client for the purpose of being guided or helped in the commission of a crime are not privileged. It was said then, and later, that a communication in furtherance of a criminal purpose is outside the ordinary scope of professional confidentiality. This rarely causes any problems because criminals rarely disclose their criminal intentions to their lawyers. The problem areas of confidentiality are found in frauds involving house mortgages, City frauds and family work. In all these areas, a matter that is routine can suddenly turn into something very nasty, with criminal implications for all concerned.

The police have an ingrained belief that no domestic mortgage fraud can take place without a solicitor's knowing involvement. With the recent rise in mortgage fraud, this has led to several solicitors being charged with frauds when, at worst, they were somewhat naive over what their clients were up to. In the very different Blue Arrow City fraud trial, in which Mr Keat was acquitted of conspiring to defraud over the Blue Arrow £837 million rights issue, Mr Justice McKinnon ruled there was insufficient evidence.

Family work can create some of the worst situations in relation to confidentiality. Sexual abuse of children will, in all circumstances, be a crime. What happens if a client confesses to her solicitor that her boyfriend is abusing her children?

This question, and others, have been given careful attention by the two Law Society committees - standards and guidance, and that on family law - and they have come up with some answers. Unfortunately, some questions remain.

The committees' approach is analytical and logical, starting from the premise that a solicitor has to act in the best interests of the client and the duty of confidentiality. If the client is a child and not competent to give instructions, then the solicitor should act in the child's best interests. Given that there are likely to be several possible

courses of action, this imposes a considerable burden on the solicitor, who has to decide what he thinks is best for the child. No guidance is offered on how the solicitor should reach this decision.

The committees go into more detail on confidentiality. They deal briskly with communications for the furtherance of a crime, which are not confidential. The solicitor is then "free to pass them on to a third party". I take this as a euphemism for reporting the matter to the police.

If the information is imparted as a client confidence, then the solicitor still has a duty to the court and in a wardship case can be compelled to disclose information. This is obviously of limited application. Of more general importance is the statement that "... the committees are in favour of the principle of absolute confidentiality being maintained save in truly exceptional circumstances". What is meant by "truly exceptional circumstances"? The committees helpfully provide guidance on this, referring to the case last year of *W v Eggleston*, where a consultant psychologist felt obliged to reveal his report showing that W, if released from a secure hospital, was likely to commit further murders. This is sufficiently exceptional to create few practical problems.

The guidance does not stop there, however, and goes on to provide working examples. The last of these is the case of a client who has snatched her three-year-old daughter from her husband, who has custody. The mother and child are living rough and this is given as sufficient justification for the solicitor to breach the confidentiality duty and divulge the child's whereabouts.

Not surprisingly, the guidance accepts that this may not be welcomed by the client, who is likely to be furious. There can be no excuse for vagueness about such an important matter. The client should be told immediately when a breach of his or her confidence occurs. Furthermore, when they instruct a solicitor, clients deserve to be told exactly what degree of confidentiality to expect. The public cannot be expected to appreciate the professional niceties when the police are knocking at their doors.

The Law Society needs to prepare proper guidelines for the attention of the public as well as for solicitors. The guidelines should explain the limits of the confidentiality duty clearly and should be given to every client when he instructs a solicitor.

The clients may not like what they get but at least they will then know what to expect - confidentiality that is qualified rather than absolute.

● The author is a practising solicitor



BRIEF

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### Lords lesson

SIR Gordon Slynn, Britain's judge at the European Court of Justice, has some modest ideas on how the House of Lords might improve its procedure when he takes his seat as a law lord in February. He suggested at the Law Society's annual conference last week, among other things, that "proportionality" would creep into British judgments. Proportionality, the idea that administrators should act in proportion, and not in excess, to the mischief they wish to curb, is central to the European Court of Justice's judgments. Anthony Lester, QC, and David Pannick recently argued the doctrine when contesting the government's broadcasting ban on IRA terrorists, saying the total ban was out of proportion to the mischief it sought to curb. If the law lords had accepted the argument, the result might have been a specific ban on inflammatory interviews.

### Wills worry

WHEN big financial institutions enter the probate market, as intended under the government's law reforms, will the customer be adequately protected? The Law Society says not, and it has protested to the Lord Chancellor's department about draft regulations for probate complaints machinery. The

### INS AND OUTS

## Who is competent to judge the judges?

WHILE the United States has been gripped by Judge Clarence Thomas's election process, British judges have been rejecting proposals for reforming the way they are selected. First, Mr Justice Hoffmann told a conference of the Institute of Public Policy Research that the proposal for a judicial appointments commission would lead to "compromise candidates, not the best but the one to whom there is least objection".

Now Lord Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, has joined the debate. The present system is not infallible, he told Plymouth Law Society. He did not, however, see that a judicial appointments commission could work. "I do not see that the large lay element which is recommended for its

membership would be an improvement," he said. He also questioned how long the commission's advice would remain either non-political or confidential. He observed: "You do not set up a committee with a large lay element to advise on the appointment of consultant surgeons."



Donaldson: opposing view

society's complaints are that the proposals lack any means of vetting the competence and probity of future probate practitioners, of providing proper compensation, or of ensuring the new practitioners are covered by appropriate indemnity insurance. Nor is

there any way a customer can challenge excessive fees for probate work. All these are required of solicitors. The bereaved are vulnerable and their problems "should not be compounded" by divergent levels of protection according to the practitioner.

### Jury in camera

ALTHOUGH Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is thought to favour changes to allow controlled research into juries, no such change has come about and programme makers are finding increasingly ingenious ways to enter the jury room without breaking the law. The latest is by Granada, which is screening a one-hour documentary next month called *Inside the Jury*. Granada has placed a shadow jury in a crown court public gallery to watch a case. The television crew follows them into a jury room and films until they reach a verdict. As the nearest we can get to the real thing, it should be fascinating viewing.

### Green brief

WHAT help can the law give in safeguarding the environment? Well argued articles of up to 1,000 words on this topic are invited from students or those training for the law for *The Times Law Awards 1991*, sponsored by Freshfields. Full details were published in *Law Times* on October 8. More than £6,000 worth of prizes and a placement with Freshfields are on offer. The closing date for entries is November 30. Details are available from Georgina Stewart on 071-832 7546.

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It is not only the younger women lawyers who are subjected to sexual harassment. One of our candidates, in her late thirties, was interviewed by a partner with a medium-sized High Street firm. A second interview followed, and she was then invited out to dinner by way of a third and final interview. (A friendly and informal third interview over lunch or dinner can be used to test a candidate's personality, and it is now uncommon.) After an hour or so, the candidate was surprised to find the partner's hand straying around her ankles, his fingers linking up with hers, and his hand making surreptitious approaches under the table. An offer of a job came two days later. She turned it down, and wrote to the firm's senior partner explaining her reasons.

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# Justice but no winners

Clarence Thomas's narrowly won Senate confirmation by a 52-48 vote as the nation's 106th justice of the Supreme Court is a victory of a kind for President Bush. As an election year approaches, battles for Supreme Court appointments tend to be intensely political affairs. This was no exception.

However, nobody was prepared for the sordid spectacle of a three-day public hearing, in which Judge Thomas tried to refute allegations that ten years ago he sexually harassed a black female colleague in the department of education who then followed him to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

In the case of Judge Thomas, President Bush had sent the Democrat-controlled Senate a curve ball pitch on July 1. Judge Thomas is a black conservative, who had seemed prepared to overrule the court's 1973 decision establishing a constitutional right to abortion in *Roe v Wade*.

Republican senators, of course, would support Judge Thomas along party lines and because of his apparently conservative positions. They would be joined by southern Democrats, who are hostile to abortion. It was doubtless part of the administration strategy that liberals, who led the fight in 1987 to defeat Robert Bork's confirmation, might be reluctant to take on a black nominee.

Judge Thomas, however, faced a backlash from both blacks and whites. The anti-Thomas forces included the National Organisation of Women, organised labour, the Black Congressional Caucus and the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. By a divided vote, Judge Thomas was merely rated lukewarm "qualified" by the federal judiciary. Two members of the 15-member committee found Judge Thomas to be "unqualified". Last year, Supreme Court Justice David Souter unanimously received a "well qualified" rating from the same body.

There were also the lawyers, judges and law school deans who do not see the appointment as merely political. They see the Supreme Court as a special post that should go to a lawyer of recognised excellence, intellectual stature and seasoning, learned in the law and the constitution. Many of these denounced Judge Thomas as a man of limited experience, of mediocre intellect and of expedient viewpoints.

They pointed out that Judge Thomas had, in anticipation of the confirmation process, distanced himself from earlier positions on constitutional interpretation taken in published articles. They derisively called this a "confirmation conversion". At

**The Judge Thomas  
Senate enquiry took  
Americans by surprise.  
James D. Zirin looks  
at the reasons for  
the confrontation**



The contest: Professor Hill, left, made sexual allegations. Despite her objections, Judge Thomas got the job

the hearings, Judge Thomas appeared evasive on *Roe v Wade*.

Judge Thomas's supporters praised him as a decent and caring human being, who performed useful government service as the director of the EEOC under President Reagan. Many admired Judge Thomas's rise from the background of deprivation, poverty and segregation in Pin Point, Georgia, to become a lawyer, government official and judge on the Court of Appeals. President Bush saw him as embodying the "American dream".

On September 20, after nine days of hearings in which Judge Thomas praised the "fairness" of the enquiry by the senate judiciary committee, the matter was poised for a full Senate vote with confirmation expected by a comfortable margin. On October 6, however, two days before the Senate was originally scheduled to vote on the nomination, the bombshell came. Anita Hill, a tenured professor at the Oklahoma University law centre, had submitted sworn allegations of sexual harassment. She had stipulated that her charges be kept confidential.

Then came the unexpected. In an outrageous breach of trust and law, Professor Hill's affidavit, asserting



that for two years from 1981, Judge Thomas frequently asked her out, and when she refused he spoke to her in graphic detail about pornographic films, was leaked to the press. Faced with a storm of outraged protest by women's groups that they were giving short shrift to serious charges, the Senate postponed its vote so that the allegations could be fully explored.

The ensuing public hearing drew a national audience that set riveted to the television throughout the weekend. An indignant Judge Thomas, who had previously said he would not make race an issue in his confirmation, heatedly denied the allegations and denounced the process he had called fair as a "high-tech lynching" involving racial stereotypes.

Judge Thomas's supporters stressed that Professor Hill's charges came ten years after the fact; that she may have "fantasised" the entire episode; that she had followed Judge Thomas from the education department to the EEOC after the alleged incidents took place; and that she appeared to have succumbed to ambition in maintaining a cordial, if intermittent, social

relationship with him for some time afterwards.

The enquiry was hardly a conclusive win for either side. Most people believed Judge Thomas, although it was hard to conclude that some difficulty had not occurred between the two. Most senators who favoured Judge Thomas before the enquiry found Professor Hill's allegations incredible or inconclusive and said Judge Thomas should have the benefit of the doubt. Senators who doubted him before the hearings continued their opposition, defended Professor Hill's credibility and said the benefit of the doubt is with the people.

The process had no clear winners. Legal observers found the enquiry sadly unsatisfactory, as senators on both sides repeatedly made partisan speeches rather than asking their questions designed to elicit the truth. Many believe Judge Thomas emerged diminished and under a cloud. Events will prove whether and how his bitter confirmation experience will affect performances as he takes his place on the Supreme Court.

● The author is a litigator with Bred, Abbott and Morgan, a New York law firm

## Charter for a disaster?

**Why industrial  
relations requires  
skill, not  
interference from  
the public**

Industrial action in essential services has been a controversial issue in Britain for more than 20 years. Unlike many countries, Britain has no law to restrict all essential service workers, although some groups, such as the police, have been restricted individually.

Traditionally, the law was unimportant; most essential service workers did not take industrial action. If any did, emergency powers, such as the use of troops and the compulsory direction of supplies, were used to reduce the impact of disruption.

In the 1970s, this approach came into question when highly skilled essential service groups, such as health care workers, began to take industrial action and others, such as firemen and electricity power workers, further flexed their industrial muscles.

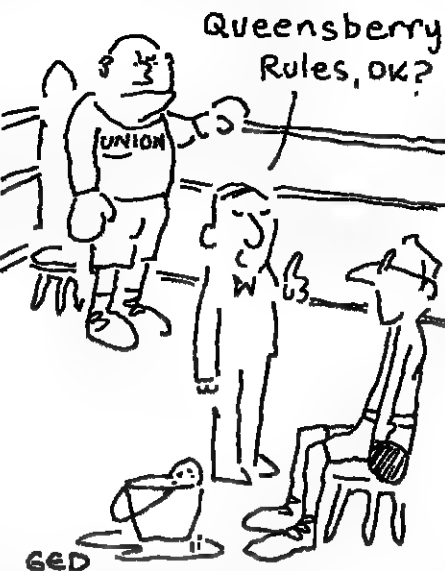
The 1979 Conservative election manifesto pledged to restrict essential service strikes, and at least twice since, in 1983 and 1989, the government considered doing this. Each time the idea was shelved.

In recent weeks, however, it has re-emerged. The Citizen's Charter and the Green Paper on reforming industrial relations propose that individual citizens should be empowered to bring legal proceedings to restrain unlawful industrial action affecting a service covered by the charter.

This means that anybody affected by unlawful disruption to education, health, local authority and transport services, and gas, water and electricity supplies, for example, could seek a court order to halt the action.

This idea may seem unobjectionable. If an employer fails to act against a union, why should not consumers? However, the proposal is less straightforward than it appears. Recent developments in the law mean that in practice, many, if not most, essential service disputes now risk being branded unlawful.

Applications by consumers, like those of employers, will be



heard in interlocutory proceedings, which take place quickly and with truncated legal argument. Interlocutory injunction applicants need show only that there is a "serious issue" to be considered at full trial; where essential services are affected, the court, once this is demonstrated, will almost certainly grant the order.

The complex current law provides many opportunities for a "serious issue" to be raised. Organising lawful industrial action is hazardous for all unions; for essential service workers, the hurdles are even greater.

Many such workers or their employers perform statutory duties, inducing breach of which is unprotected by the statutory immunities on which the lawfulness of industrial action depends. Claims by public service workers may challenge government policies and be considered predominantly political and therefore unprotected.

The 1991 Code of Practice on industrial action ballots requires unions, before starting industrial action, to give employers time to make

arrangements to ensure that there is no risk to the health and safety of other workers, or the general public, a requirement which some essential service unions will find virtually impossible to satisfy. Although breaching this code is not unlawful, the court may take account of any breach in deciding whether the action should be halted.

Thus, although essential service disputes are not expressly banned, one or more of these provisions may produce the same result in a particular dispute.

The case for treating essential service workers differently from other groups rests on the need to preserve certain basic services. This requires clear principles and the ability on the part of employers and trade unions to plan ahead.

The Citizen's Charter, being founded on the uncertainties of the existing law, runs completely counter to this aim. The joint regulation, or "Queensberry Rules" approach of many past disputes — trade union adherence to a code of conduct in return for a restrained response by management — cannot be expected to survive, particularly as consumers may bring proceedings when a service is merely reduced rather than withdrawn.

Employers at least will have regard to the industrial relations implications before they use the law; consumers cannot be expected to do the same.

This provision of the Citizen's Charter is a recipe for chaos. If essential service disputes are to be restricted, such restrictions should be explicit and accompanied by reciprocal guarantees to ensure that workers are not thereby prejudiced, a point recognised by prominent advocates of restriction, such as the Centre for Policy Studies.

Empowering the individual citizen may sound attractive but in this context the government should think again.

GILLIAN MORRIS  
● The author is Reader in Law at Brunel University

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## Law Report October 22 1991

## No power to withdraw wage supplement

**McCree v Tower Hamlets London Borough Council**  
Before Mr Justice Wood, Mr L. D. Cowan and Mr J. D. Daly  
[Judgment October 11]

Tower Hamlets London Borough Council had no power to withdraw a wage supplement paid to an employee in respect of the loss of his right to cash pay after the abolition of the Truck Acts by the Wages Act 1986.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal by the applicant, Mr Clinton McCree, from a decision of a London industrial tribunal in February 1989 that his employer, Tower Hamlets London Borough Council, was not in breach of the provisions of section 1 of the 1986 Act.

Section 1 of the 1986 Act provides: "(1) An employer

shall not make any deduction from any wages of any worker employed by him unless (a) it is required or authorised to be made by virtue of any statutory provision or any relevant provision of the worker's contract; or (b) the worker had previously signified in writing his agreement or consent to the making of it."

Mr Jeremy McMullen for the applicant, Miss Tess Gill for the council.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the applicant had been transferred from the Greater London Council to Tower Hamlets on July 1, 1985.

Before the transfer he had been granted a non-cash pay supplement of £6 a week in return for agreeing to be paid by credit transfer through his bank as opposed to his right to cash under the Truck Acts.

He continued to be paid a non-cash pay supplement until in November 1987 Tower Hamlets decided that it should be absorbed gradually into an overall bonus so that eventually the original employees would be on the same basis of pay as the GLC transferees.

The terms of the applicant's contract of employment were therefore altered unilaterally and his non-cash pay supplement was being gradually eroded when he made his application to the industrial tribunal in April 1988.

The industrial tribunal considered whether the deduction was authorised under the Greater London Council Housing (Staff Transfer and Protection) Order (SI 1979 No 1737), regulation 7 of which provided that the salary and conditions of employment of a person transferred were not to be less

favourable than before the date of transfer.

It held that since the amount of the remuneration package as a whole was not less than its amount before the transfer there was no breach of the order and no breach of the 1986 Act.

The purpose of the 1979 Regulations was to protect the personal position of transferred employees and to recognise that the new employer would wish to envelope all the transferees within its own work structure particularly so far as the terms of employment were concerned.

For those reasons the regulations gave the new employer a right within six months of transfer to apply new terms provided they were not less favourable than those the employee enjoyed immediately before his transfer.

But once that new statement of terms and conditions had

come into force and had not been the subject of appeal under the regulations, there was a new situation which would continue under the ordinary provisions of the common law or the Employment Protection Act 1978.

There was no power within the regulations which allowed the new employer to continue to make unilateral changes in the contract of employment after that initial power to produce new terms and conditions of employment.

There was no right in the applicant's contract of employment with Tower Hamlets to vary the contract and it had no right to withdraw the supplement unilaterally. The appeal would be allowed and leave to appeal granted.

Solicitors: Pattinson & Brewer; Mr R. J. Abbott, Bethnal Green.

**GA Estates Ltd v Caviapen Trustees Ltd**  
Before Lord Goff of Chelmsford  
[Judgment August 30]

Where a contract for the development of land which had been freely negotiated between commercial parties contained a warranty of the fitness of the land for development, the principle of construction *contra proferentem* did not apply to the warranty.

Lord Goff said so, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, allowing a proof before answer in a breach of contract claim by Caviapen Trustees Ltd in an action of payment brought against them by GA Estates Ltd.

Mr Nigel Emslie, QC and Mr James Campbell, QC and the Clerk of the Faculty of Advocates (Mr Raymond Doherty) for the defendants, Mr Neil Brailsford for the third party.

LORD GOFF said that the defendants' counterclaim was founded on a warranty in a contract for the development of an area of ground which provided that the pursuers warranted that the land was fit for the purpose of constructing the planned development.

The pursuers submitted that the warranty had been construed in favour of the defendants and founded upon by them and should therefore be construed, if it was ambiguous, *contra proferentem*, that is, in the manner least favourable to them: *Glaug on Contract* (2nd edn, pp 400-401); *McBryde on Contract*, para 19-2.

The principle of construction

## Scots Law Report October 22 1991

## Principle does not apply

*contra proferentem* applied not only to standard form contracts but equally to onerous clauses affecting liability even where there was no standard form, including, for example, exemption clauses and indemnities. An onerous warranty was in a similar position.

The defendants submitted that it was a negotiated contract and there was no reason to regard the clause as conceived in favour of one party rather than the other.

Lord Goff stated (at p401) that in order to admit of construction *contra proferentem*, there had to be a *proferens* and that, in ordinary contracts where parties were contracting on an equal footing, it might fairly be assumed that the ultimate terms were arrived at by mutual adjustment, and did not represent the language of one party more than the other: *Birrell v Dryer* (1884) 11 R (HL) 41.

On the other hand, *McBryde* stated that the correct rule was that an ambiguous expression would be construed against the party who relied on it, irrespective of which party or parties produced the words.

In *Birrell* both Lord Blackburn and Lord Watson had observed that the content of the clause which had been in issue was as much a matter of concern and benefit to the one party as to the other and that this was not a situation in which the *contra proferentem* rule could be applied.

His Lordship concluded that in the light of those observations *McBryde's* formulation was too wide. The rule might not be confined to standard form contracts and other cases in which the terms were, in effect, dictated by one party.

A similar rule of construction could be applied to clauses which purported to relieve a party of the consequences of his own negligence. In *Canada Steamship Lines Ltd v The King* ([1952] AC 192), Lord Morton of Henryton had used the term "the *proferens*" to describe the party in whose favour such a clause was conceived."

The *contra proferentem* rule, however, was a special rule, and given that the fundamental principle of construction was to endeavour to ascertain the true intention of the contracting parties, the normal rule in commercial contracts between equal parties had to be that stated by *Glaug*, and there had to be some special feature to justify the special rule.

The pursuers had suggested that the warranty was such a special feature, because warranties were not normally implied in contracts of sale of land. His Lordship did not, however, think that the fact that an express term in a contract made some provision which was different from what would be implied in the absence of that express term could properly be regarded as comparable with a clause which purported to exempt a party from the consequences of his own fault and as sufficiently special to bring a special rule into play.

In his Lordship's view, the warranty was a clause in a mutual contract negotiated between both parties for their respective interests and no special rule of construction was appropriate.

Solicitors: J. & F. Anderson, WS; Bird, Semple, Fyfe, Ireland; MacLay Murray & Spens

## Deduction of overpaid salary was unauthorised

**Home Office v Ayres**

Before Mr Justice Wood, Mr R. H. Phipps and Mr G. H. Wright  
[Judgment October 11]

Deductions made by the Home Office from an employee's salary in respect of overpayments made by mistake were an authorised deduction under the Wages Act 1986. Section 1(5)(a) of the Act by which deductions in respect of overpaid wages might be excluded from the provisions of the Act did not apply since the employer was not lawfully entitled to the repayment of the wages.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when dismissing

an appeal by the Home Office from a decision of an Ashford industrial tribunal in August 1989 awarding the employee, Mr Richard Ayres, £830 compensation for a sum deducted from his wages in respect of an overpayment of salary.

Section 1(5) provides: "Nothing in this section applies (a) to any deduction from a worker's wages made by his employer, or any payment received from a worker by his employer, where the purpose of the deduction or payment is the reimbursement of the employer in respect of (i) any overpayment of wages; ..."

Mr Robert Jay for the Home

Office, Mr Martin Westgate for Mr Ayres.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that in October and November 1988 the employee was overpaid £830. The industrial tribunal found that in the absence of pay slips and an explanation for changing rates of pay he had assumed that he was being paid correctly and the tribunal was satisfied that he had spent the money he received quite innocently on normal living expenses.

The employee's case was that the Home Office was not lawfully entitled to the repayment of the £830 and should not have

deducted it. The Home Office's case was that on the ordinary meaning of the words in section 1(5)(a) of the 1986 Act the employee could not make any claim under that Act but had to proceed in the county court.

A number of considerations pointed in favour of the employee. The other sub-sections of section 1(5) clearly imposed upon an industrial tribunal the duty to examine the lawfulness of each deduction before that sub-section could properly be given effect.

Further, the true intent of Parliament was best achieved by reading section 1(5)(a) as if the word "lawful" was inserted in

the opening phrase "to any [lawful] deduction" and before the word "reimbursement".

When an employer relied on section 1(5)(a) by way of defence to a claim under section 1(1) the employee would be able to raise a number of defences including that there was no overpayment, that the amount of the deduction was incorrect, that the purpose of the deduction was not to reimburse or a defence under the general law to the claim to deduct. The appeal would be dismissed and leave to appeal granted.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Mischoon de Reys.

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

## INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAWYER

A leading British financial institution seeks to recruit an experienced commercial lawyer to join its international legal department in the City.

The role involves legal responsibility for a diverse range of international banking matters, including the structuring and documenting of multi-jurisdictional transactions, and the conduct of complex, high value litigious matters in overseas jurisdictions as well as in the U.K. There will be extensive contact with client business units as well as counterparties, and the position will require well developed negotiating skills.

The successful candidate will be in his or her late twenties or early thirties, and will have gained first rate professional experience, preferably with a City practice. Commercial acumen and a practical approach are also important.

A substantial performance orientated remuneration package is offered, augmented by a full range of benefits, which includes a company car and mortgage scheme.

For further information, please write with full curriculum vitae to Box No. 5847, c/o The Times Newspapers, P.O. Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

## SOLICITOR

£24,000 - £30,000 ACCORDING TO EXPERIENCE  
LONDON

Significant change has taken place at the Legal Aid Board with the aim of improving the quality of service provided. The process of change is on-going and the future promises to be interesting and challenging for everyone involved. We are now looking for a solicitor to join our London office to assist the solicitor section and the legal section in achieving our aims.

You will be a member of our solicitor's team continuously liaising with other sections of the office, making decisions on legal aid applications, attending Area Committees, and training staff on legal topics. The civil litigation workload of the office is extremely varied and will form the largest part of your work.

Two years post admission experience of civil litigation is

desirable, and the ability to handle a large workload is a pre-requisite. Good oral and written communication skills are essential as you will be expected to communicate with organisations and people at all levels. You should have a methodical approach to your work, an ability to pay attention to detail and be able to organise and prioritise your workload.

The London office is situated in Holborn. If you wish to discuss the job further, please telephone Ken Winberg on 071 405 6991.

If you think you have the right qualities and experience, please send a CV to the Personnel and Training Department, Legal Aid, Greenroft House, 12 Roger Street, London WC1N 2JL to be received no later than 6th November 1991.

LEGAL AID BOARD

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

NEW DISABILITY ORGANISATION

## Chief Executive

c.£40k

## Director of Fundraising

c.£25k (plus incentives)

The Royal Association for Disability & Rehabilitation and the Disabled Living Foundation plan to merge on 1 April 1992 to become the principal charity in the general disability field.

Applications are now invited for these key posts to lead and shape the new body.

The Chief Executive will have a deep knowledge of the disability field, qualities of vision and leadership and a proven record of effective management.

The Fundraising Director will demonstrate a highly professional approach to raising funds for and promoting the new organisation.

For details write in confidence to the Hon. Coordinator, RADAR/DLF Merger, 380-384 Harrow Road, London, W9 2HU.

11 NEW SQUARE  
Lincoln's Inn  
JUNIOR TENANT

We are looking for the right person to join us in January 1992 to become our next Junior Tenant. You must be doing (or have done) a Chancery (or closely related) pupillage and have the aptitude and will to do demanding Chancery/Commercial work.

The initial appointment will be as a probationary tenant or pupil with a view, depending on the stage you have reached and those who have just commenced pupillage should not be deterred from applying. A substantial financial assistance package will be offered. Applications should be in writing addressed to Ulrick Staverton to reach him by 1st November 1991. If you would like to know more about the Chambers or the vacancy before making your application please speak to Stephen Whitaker or Ulrick Staverton by telephone. All inquiries will be treated in strict confidence.

11 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3QB  
Tel: 071-431 0081 DX: 319 LONDON Fax: 071-405 2580/0798

THE CHAMBERS OF  
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We are a busy common law chambers with a modern approach to practice, seeking applications from established practitioners. Chambers has 17 members and hopes to expand to 25 or more with a view to promoting the development of groups within chambers specialising in crime, family, personal injury, employment, property and domestic commercial law. Applications are invited from individuals or groups.

Chambers has pleasant and spacious accommodation, is equipped with modern technology and is managed through an elected management committee.

Applications in confidence to:

Peter Leighton, 3 Gray's Inn Square, London WC1R 5AH

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

COMHAIRLE  
NAH  
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Western Isles  
Islands  
Council

DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
OF FINANCE

£28,487 - £31,734

This key post, based in the Finance Department, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, will provide a challenging opportunity for a qualified accountant (preferably CFFA).

The post will also provide experience of single-tier local government at a level which will involve him/her in financial management and policy advice at a senior level within the Council. The successful applicant will play a leading role in budget strategy and will have close involvement with senior Members of the Council in financial decision making.

Applicants should have several years post-qualification experience and should have the maturity to contribute positively to the management of the Department.

Enquiries about the post should be made to Tom Carter, Acting Director of Finance, on (0851) 708778 Ext 230.

Conditions include full removal expenses, legal fees and assistance with housing where possible.

Job description and information pack are available from Manpower Services Unit, Council Offices, Sandwick Road, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. Tel (0851) 708773 Ext 228. Applications by CV should include the names/addresses of three referees. It is proposed to schedule interviews for this post during week commencing 11th November 1991.

Closing date Monday  
28th October 1991.

THE STOP  
SMOKING  
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requires experienced counsellor who will be trained for this exciting new career.

Please telephone

071-584 2418



## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

(Corporate, Financial and Administrative Affairs)

Principal Edmond Fivet MA, FRMC, FRSA

From April 1992 the College will become an independent institution, as a Higher Education Corporation. One result of this change is that the College wish to appoint a Deputy Principal for Corporate, Financial and Administrative Affairs with effect from January 1992.

Salary £31,902 - £34,917

Details of this important and influential post can be obtained from -

Mrs Morag Redman  
PA Principal  
Welsh College of Music and Drama  
Cathays Park, Cardiff  
Tel:- Cardiff (0222) 342854

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 15TH NOVEMBER, 1991.

THE ASSOCIATION  
OF  
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Non-profit making Professional Association require Financial/Administration Executive.

Experience in the Arts and/or Fundraising an advantage. Salary according to age and experience.

Write with CV to Gwen Thomas

9-10 Domingo St. London EC1Y 0TA.

NO AGENCIES

THE OFFICE OF  
THE BUILDING SOCIETIES  
OMBUDSMEN  
LEGAL OFFICER

We are looking for a young lawyer to join a team of internal legal officers assisting the Ombudsmen to investigate and resolve complaints relating to building societies.

The successful applicant will be responsible for investigating complaints received and making recommendations, but not for the final decision.

Salary will be dependent on qualifications and experience and will be in the region of £20,500.

For further details regarding this appointment interested applicants should write, with a copy of their CV, to:

The Registrar  
The Office of the Building Societies Ombudsmen  
35 - 37 Grosvenor Gardens London SW1 7AW



# An extra string to the bow

London's Commercial Road, in the heart of the East End and swept by wind, grime and noise, is not the obvious place to look for a budding Stradivarius, but it is home to the London College of Furniture, one of only a handful of colleges that run musical instrument-making courses.

According to Terry Pamplin, the head of music technology, it is an entirely appropriate location. The East End was the centre of a thriving musical instrument industry in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Whether or not the students, aged between 17 and 70, appreciate the historical symmetry is uncertain. What is certain is their commitment and enthusiasm.

As Stephen Painter, who is learning to make Renaissance instruments, such as lutes, points out: "You have to love it, because you are never going to make a fortune."

Established musical instrument makers see dedication as crucial. Michael Gee, who builds guitars for professional musicians, says: "Working for yourself, as most makers do, is not a job; it is a way of life. You have really got to want to do it."

Anyone wishing to make musical instruments professionally is advised to take the four-year, full-time Business and Technician Education Council (BTEC) National

**In London's East End, Linda Steele finds students carrying on the tradition of making musical instruments. Making the perfect sound, not a fortune, is their aim in life**

ional and Higher National Diploma courses consecutively.

Practical skills are the focus of the courses. Students specialise from the beginning, choosing one of six families of instruments: modern fretted (including acoustic guitar and related instruments), violin (including other bowed instruments such as cellos), piano, early keyboard (such as harpsichord), early stringed (including harps or viols), or woodwind (such as bagpipes and recorders).

Electronics for the music industry is offered as a seventh option. For those who want a broader, more academic training, with a career in management in mind, the college offers a BSc in music technology. However, the degree still has a strong practical element and students may concentrate on instrument-making as their project work.

The diploma courses cover manual and computer-aided design, servicing and construction of the chosen instrument, as well as related skills and theory, such as acoustics, technical drawing and

business studies. Students gain experience of making instruments during workshop sessions. Higher National Diploma violin students, for example, are expected to have made the instruments for a stringed quartet by the end of their course.

"We train handmakers of individual instruments for professional players," Mr Pamplin says. Learning to play the instrument is also a part of the curriculum. The aim is for students to develop an all-round understanding of their chosen instrument, which encompasses the creative and the technical, and combines the needs of both player and maker.

Builders of early musical instruments, guitars and violins often set up in business as individual builders and repairers, or in workshops with one or two partners.

Eamonn Murray, who makes viola, believes that there is a growing demand for new, individually crafted instruments. However, he acknowledges that build-

ing a reputation and clientele among musicians takes time. "If you are good, you will be able to make a living, but you will have to rough it for the first five or six years," he says.

There are other openings, such as teaching or repairing and restoring instruments for dealers, orchestras and individual owners. Piano-tuners and technicians are in demand. There is very little call, however, for piano designers and makers in Britain, as so few manufacturers are now based in the country.

Perhaps creating the more obscure instruments is best left to those who are happy to be itinerant. Jörg Dahms hitch-hiked from Berlin to London to make baroque and mediaeval hurdy-gurdies. "I came here to learn to produce something with my hands which people will enjoy for a couple of hundred years. But I will not end up working here; they are hardly typical instruments in England," he says.

He intends to become either a museum curator in Eastern Europe or an instrument maker in France, where the hurdy-gurdy is still played as a folk instrument.

Further details: London College of Furniture (071-247 1953). The British Music Education Yearbook, published by Rhinegold, contains brief details of other courses.



Tuned in: Bent Villadsen came from Denmark to find the course he wanted in the East End of London

SWITCHING from being an anthropologist to a craftsman seems an unusual, even an unlikely, step to take. Bent Villadsen tends to agree. "But so little of what happens in someone's life follows an obvious or logical path," he says. "Besides, I have always had a practical streak."

That streak — and a love of the guitar — persuaded him to give up his anthropology studies at Copenhagen University. Having tried in vain to find an apprenticeship with a Danish guitar maker, Mr Villadsen left Denmark for England and the London College of Furniture. The tuition gave him free rein to develop his own style. "There was an atmosphere of

## PROFILE

enthusiasm and a critical approach to traditional guitar making, which I found quite healthy," he says.

It was acknowledged that, once a student had learnt the basic skills, he would quite quickly go on to develop his own methods. That is important, because the essence of a handmade guitar is that it is the product of one individual's skill and knowledge of wood and acoustics.

He decided to produce classical guitars for the professional market. "I didn't want to work for a shop, doing repairs, nor work in one of the great guitar factories abroad," he

says. So, after leaving college, he set up a workshop in London. His biggest outlay was on tools — around £2,000, including those purchased whilst training — and wood.

But there can be other hidden social costs for a craftsman. "You start by selling relatively cheaply to friends and enthusiastic amateurs, so you work long hours to make a living and don't have much spare time."

The initial hardships have done nothing to undermine the pleasure he gains from his work. "I am doing something that I love. I plan never to retire — I want to be making guitars when I'm 80. And to have so much enjoyment in your work," he points out, "is a rare thing."

071-481 1066

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

FAX 071-782 7826



**NHS IN SCOTLAND  
SCOTTISH AMBULANCE  
SERVICE**

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### THE ORGANISATION

With an annual budget of nearly £50m, 2,300 personnel, over 1,000 vehicles and the only publicly-funded air ambulance helicopter in the UK, the Scottish Ambulance Service is one of the largest public ambulance services in the world. A major overhaul of the Service is in progress involving the recruitment of a significant number of additional staff and the training of a large number of paramedics. These initiatives are principal elements of the "Strategy for the '90s" designed to enhance the quality of pre-hospital patient care.

### THE JOBS

These new key positions are integral to the overall Strategy for the Scottish Ambulance Service which is, essentially, about moving the whole Service "up a gear". As a member of the Service's Management Board, your primary task will be to deliver a quality ambulance service to patients in one of three recently created ambulance regions of Scotland. This will require leadership and drive of the highest order together with the ability to motivate and organise a work force of up to 1,000 ambulance and support staff. The initial agenda will include an examination of the effectiveness and deployment of all ambulance service resources in a Region in the light of the revised performance standards.



COMMON SERVICES AGENCY  
Working for Health

### THE APPLICANTS

Above all, the requirement is for innovative and leaders who are able to discharge "the word from the breast". You need not have an ambulance service background, although this would be of benefit. However, you will have demonstrated the knack of being able to analyse complex problems and produce clear cut and effective solutions without ruffling too many feathers. Obviously, wide experience in the management of people and resources is also critical. The posts will appeal to those who enjoy a challenge and are keen to make a personal contribution as part of a close-knit team in the Health Service.

### THE OFFER

The appointments are offered on NHS terms and conditions of service with a competitive salary and benefits package which includes performance related pay (PRP), contributory index-linked pension, an attractive car-leasing scheme and, where appropriate, generous relocation expenses.

### THE NEXT STEP

An information pack and application form may be obtained from Central Personnel Department, Common Services Agency, Trinity Park House, South Trinity Road, Edinburgh EH5 3SE, tel 031-552 6255 Ext 2725 (answerphone after 5pm). Please quote appropriate reference number. Subsequent to receiving this pack, anyone wishing further information should write to Andrew Freemantle, National Headquarters, The Scottish Ambulance Service, Tipperburn Road, Edinburgh EH10 5JUL. The closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 11th November.

## A NEW SET OF AIMS

We are developing a new set of aims to take Nottingham into the 1990's, based around a culture which emphasises team work, customer service, quality and performance.

### Assistant Director (Maintenance)

Housing Department £31,553 — £34,488 p.a.

Nottingham is looking for an Assistant Director (Maintenance) to take over the day to day work and an 'eyes on the ground' role.

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If you think you have the vision, drive and innovative ability to promote, manage and sustain change as well as sensitivity to the needs of customers, elected members and employees then we would like to hear from you.

Applications from Asian, African, Caribbean, Indian and Pakistani people would be particularly welcome as they are currently under-represented amongst our employees.

Recruitment packages are available from the Personnel Manager, The Guildhall, Nottingham NG1 4BT. Telephone (0602) 483500 ext. 4624 or (0602) 350760 for an answerphone service available after office hours. Closing date 8th November 1991.

**City of Nottingham**

An Equal Opportunity Employer



SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Applications are invited for the post of Chief Executive of the Squash Rackets Association, the governing body for the sport in England. The successful applicant will be based at the Association's offices in West London and will receive a remuneration package based upon age and experience.

Applications, including a full curriculum vitae together with the names and addresses of 3 persons to whom reference may be made, should be sent to:

Paul G. Turtan, Chairman  
Squash Rackets Association  
C/O 15 Croft Rise, East Bridgeford  
Middx. MK11 1SE

The closing date for applications is 15 November 1991

**CYNGOR SIR GWYNEDD COUNTY COUNCIL**

### CYFARWYDDWR/WRAIG DIWYLLIANT A HAMDDEN

Cyflwr £37,500 + (£936 x 4) - £41,244

Cademiad Gwynedd yw ei diwylliant. Yn gymysgedd byw o theatrau, gwyliau cerddorol ac orielau; o lyfrau, papurau bro ac eisteddfodau; o amgueddfeydd, archifdai ac ardangosfeydd, mae'r drefnadaeth unigryw yma yn werth ei chynnal a'i datblygu.

Creodd y Cyngor Sir y swydd newydd gyffrous o Gyfarwyddwr/Wraig Diwylliant a Hamdden er mwyn cydgyfio ymweu y Cyngor â'r maes yma yn agystal â thal agweddau cryniddol bwysig o hamddena. Bydd ein Cyfarwyddwr/Wraig cyntaf yn rheoli amgueddfeydd eang o weithgareddau sy'n cynnwys gwasanaethau'r llyfrgell, archifau ac amgueddfeydd, y celfyddydau yn gyffredinol yn agystal â pharciau gwledig. Lleolir y swydd ym Mhencadlys y Cyngor yng Nghaernarfon.

Mae'n rhaid i ymgeiswyr:

- \* ddangos profiad eang ym maes rheolaeth
- \* feddu ar gymwysterau profesiynol/academaidd perthnasol
- \* fod â phrofiad o lywodraeth leol neu'r gallu i addasu i amgylchedd llywodraeth leol
- \* brofi ymroddiad a blaengarwch ym meysydd diwylliant a hamdden
- \* fod yn rhugl yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg

Telir iwfans teithio a cheir cymorth i brynu car neu geir ymuno â'r cynllun prydtesu. Mae cymorth ariannol ar gael tuag at gostau mudo ac all-gartrefu mewn achosion pnodol.

### DIRECTOR OF CULTURE AND LEISURE

Salary £37,500 + (£936 x 4) - £41,244

Gwynedd's strength is its culture. Boasting a variety of theatres, musical festivals and galleries; books, community newspapers and eisteddfodau; museums, archives and exhibitions, this unique heritage merits preserving and developing.

The County Council has created a new and exciting post of Director of Culture and Leisure in order to co-ordinate the Council's involvement in these fields as well as other increasingly important aspects of leisure. Our new Director will manage a wide variety of activities including the library, archives and museums service, the arts in general as well as country parks. The post is located at the Council's headquarters in Caernarfon.

Candidates must:

- \* demonstrate considerable experience in management
- \* possess an appropriate professional/academic qualification
- \* have experience of local government or the ability to adapt to a local government environment
- \* prove commitment and prominence in the fields of culture and leisure
- \* be fluent in both Welsh and English

A travelling allowance is payable together with assistance to purchase a car or participation in the car leasing scheme. Financial assistance is available for re-location costs in appropriate cases.

Dyddiad Cau/Closing Date 8.11.91

Ffurflen i gais a manylion pellach am y swydd uchod gan:

Swyddog Personel y Sir, Swyddfa'r Sir, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH.

Ffôn: Caernarfon (0286) 679078.

Application forms and further particulars for the above post from:

The County Personnel Officer, County Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH. Tel: Caernarfon (0286) 679078.

HUMBERSIDE FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

## General Manager

Salary: £37,980 p.a. plus PRP plus Lease Car

An enthusiastic innovative and experienced manager is sought to assume a leading role in the development of primary care services for a population of over 880,000.

The drive towards progressively greater integration of primary and secondary care services means that the management of major change will be the principal challenge of this position. We are looking for someone with the vision to direct that change and the skills to make it happen.

Ideally the successful applicant will be educated to degree level or equivalent, have a proven track record at a senior level, the ability to create, motivate and lead a dynamic team and the personal qualities required to ensure the full commitment and contribution of staff.

In return, we offer a three year rolling contract with a salary of £37,980 p.a. plus benefits which include performance related pay, a lease car scheme and relocation expenses where appropriate.

An application package may be obtained from Mrs. Jill Dobbs, Administration Manager, Humberside FHSA, 32-36 Prospect Street, Hull HU2 8PL. Tel. 0482 25281 Ext. 150.

For an informal discussion, Mrs Veronica Pettifer, the FHSA Chairman would be happy to speak to interested candidates at her private business office (0652 660660)

Closing date: 1st November, 1991.



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH NATIONAL DIRECTOR

MIND needs a new National Director who, as well as being the Chief Executive, will have overall responsibility for the management, development and representation of the Association at all levels and the implementation of policy. The person appointed will have had extensive experience of management in the public interest, preferably including some time in the voluntary sector. She or he will have an understanding of mental health issues and be capable of leading an organisation with some 110 employed staff and a current budget of around £3 million. This will be in liaison with over 200 affiliated but autonomous Local Associations with many staff and thousands of members and volunteers throughout England and Wales. The job demands clear written expression, the ability to think clearly about mental health policy in a rapidly changing environment and to speak in public in a wide variety of circumstances including through the media. The National Director must be able to manage effectively and motivate staff, have a clear understanding of related financial affairs and be responsible for company secretarial matters. Interviews will be held on 3rd or 4th December and candidates will be expected to give both oral and written presentations.

Salary within a scale £36,178 to £41,120 + £2,004 L.W.; a car will be provided; pension scheme.

MIND is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Job description and application form from:

Personel (DS), MIND (NAMI), 22 Harley Street, London W1N 2ED

Closing date for completed applications: 18.11.91

Please note that CVs will not be accepted in place of application forms











# England can no longer rely on forcing errors



Blanco: lacking judgment

And then there were four. They did it in different ways, with different styles and with differing degrees of ease, but for England, Scotland, Australia and New Zealand the long march goes on.

The quarter-final stage of the Rugby World Cup produces an increase in the pressure, for now the fruits of failure are bitter indeed, with no second chances and little respect from others. Beaten quarter-finalists are perhaps the most desolate bunch of this tournament.

The pressure was clearly the greatest in Paris. Both England and France went into the match believing they could win the tournament but knowing that such was the relative parity of the two sides that, if things went only slightly wrong, they would be out.

England's victory was based squarely on a lineout which performed outstandingly in the final quarter of the match and on an organised and disciplined de-



David Kirk, captain of New Zealand's World Cup winning side in 1987, assesses the merits of the semi-finalists in this year's tournament

fence. France in the end were quite simply not up to the pressure and nor, frankly, was Serge Blanco up to the captaincy required under such circumstances.

Paradoxically, what France desperately needed at times was to stop trying so hard. A cool and calm approach in the final 20 minutes would have had them back on attack as they played away from the touchlines using the midfield and loose forwards to run at England.

As it was, they hurried themselves into kicking out of defence and they accumulated small error after small error which allowed England a stranglehold on possession. Poor Blanco. The final act

was a sad one for him. It was particularly his tragedy to be so dominant a player and personality that I am sure no one would have felt qualified to give him the advice he desperately needed.

He needed someone to tell him that all he had to do was to play his position with his usual élan. Instead, he tried desperately hard to create something from nothing each time he touched the ball and he failed miserably.

England were good, but are they good enough to win the Webb Ellis Cup? Frustratingly, I still feel unable to be sure. I have believed all along that they will never win without using their backs effectively and the Paris performance has merely reinforced this

belief. There is no way that Scotland, Australia or New Zealand will make as many mistakes or lose as many lineouts as France did at the Parc des Princes on Saturday.

Lacking that dominance up front, England will be forced to use their backs to score points. But can they? All I can say for sure is that the individual skills are there. I will believe the collective ability when (and if) I see it.

Scotland were the most convincing winners of the quarter-finalists. They had obviously thought about their tactics hard and they executed them with admirable purpose. Ask any team that has played against Western Samoa. It is not a particularly palatable job to run at them, for they tend to launch themselves like surface-to-air missiles into their tackles. But Scotland discerned what needed to be done and they rolled up their sleeves and got on with it.

Ireland were quite simply in-

comparable. There is no other rugby team in the world which has such an ability to play above the sum of its individual skills. Australia at times were the epitome of the modern team, masterful exponents of the modern game of running, passing and supporting, but they were very nearly washed away by relentless Irish desire.

Very few of us can have doubted that the All Blacks would beat Canada, but after below-par performances against Italy and the United States, the quality of their performance was seen as crucial to their chances against Australia. I was encouraged mightily. I have been forced to change my basic paradigm of how the All Blacks now think about the game.

I had believed, based on my experience, that the final satisfaction, indeed the greatest satisfaction that the All Blacks get from playing, was not merely from winning but from winning by

miles. The analogy is vicious but apt — do not be content with merely knocking down your man; pick him up, hook his arms over the ropes to keep him up and keep on pummeling him. Opponents are not there to be beaten, they are there to be crushed.

That paradigm rules no longer. This All Black team has been around too long to have that hunger. They are collectively a little stale, a little bored with the game and motivation must come from the outside.

When they were stimulated and driven they played very well against Canada. Precise kicking, passing and option-taking won them the match in the first half.

They convinced themselves they could play well enough to beat anyone and then stopped playing well enough to beat Canada. In the end, this won't matter, for the semi-final and the final will demand all that they are able to give for the whole 80 minutes. And they will give it.

## Vintage spirit appeases bitter taste of defeat

# Irish passion must be rekindled for the season ahead

FROM BRYAN STILES IN DUBLIN

THE Irish should bottle the ingredients of that vintage spirit that almost swept them into the semi-finals of the World Cup on Sunday, and uncork it when the five nations' championship comes around.

It is a heady mixture that produces wild passion, daring and total commitment in equal parts, and it clearly frightened the life out of Australia before they sobered everyone by snatching victory 19-18 two minutes from the end with precision that marks them as some people's cup favourites.

Once again, Ireland are the heartbroken nearly-men of rugby. They nearly beat Scotland previously, and they nearly beat every home country in last season's championship. What more do they have to do to win? Very little, on the evidence of Sunday's performance. But who would want to share in the luck of the Irish when the fates persistently conjure up such heart-wrenching climaxes to mock their valiant efforts?

Ciaran Fitzgerald, the



coach, is proud of the way his new young team has answered the call, and said on Sunday: "There is a clearer view today of what this Irish team is made of. But there must be more to come in the matter of putting points on the board."

There is a tremendous cup campaign, for it had looked as if their bandwagon had run out of control during the build-up. They suffered two defeats at the hands of Namibia, just managed to beat a second division club, Malone, and lost to Gloucester. They looked in disarray.

The coach, though, remained unflappable and faithful to his men and his methods. "Our attitudes have nothing to do with proving anybody wrong," he said.

"Our attitude was to set targets and achieve them. We followed that policy and if people have different views, that's OK by us."

Whether the bitter disappointment after such a cruel defeat will cause some of the players to retire before the five nations' championship remains to be seen.

Will Donal Lenihan again find the heart and strength to face the discipline and tedium of the training regime necessary to sustain his international career? After winning 52 caps, will he decide that glorious defeat is the note on which to finish his career?

Des Fitzgerald, the prop, who put in several fine displays, will be 34 in December. He, too, might decide to go.

But it is the left wing position that is bound to cause Ireland their greatest concern. Keith Crossan, who missed Sunday's game because of injury, is also thought to be considering retirement. There is no ready replacement in sight. Jack Clarke was called in to plug the gap against Australia, but he is a centre who does not have the skill or thought processes needed for touchline manoeuvres.

The Irish will also need to consider how they can achieve more penetration in midfield and how to use their half backs even more effectively. Keyes and Saunders are fine kickers, but another dimension will have to be added to their play.

The advances that were made on Sunday must not be lost. One of the abiding memories of that occasion was the image of all Ireland in mourning as their try-scoring hero, Hamilton, broke down and wept, unable to finish a television interview.



Time to bow out? Lenihan, after winning 52 caps, must now be considering his future

## Trillo bemoans direction the game is taking

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

"ENTHUSIASM and spontaneity are what make this game so great," Jean Trillo said. Saddy, the former French centre, whose coaching commitments to the French team concluded with Saturday's defeat in the World Cup by England, was not talking about that particular match, but rather of the diminution of those two ingredients, which has

contributed towards his own departure.

Trillo offers a philosophy of the game which is typically Continental and which is to a degree contradicted by Australia, whose complex switch moves are the result of considerable time spent in training but also embrace the ball-handling skills which come so naturally — spontaneously, Trillo might suggest — to them.

"The principal characteristic

of back-line play is inspiration, and when it is not there, you feel a great vacuum," Trillo went on. At Twickenham in March, France had it on Saturday, at the Parc des Princes, they did not, hence the frustration Trillo said he felt which was compounded by France trying to play too close to the scrums.

"When they played wide, England were well prepared," he said. "We were never able to put our back-line plans into action,

we could not find a solution to the problems they posed. It was the death of romanticism. The problem is that this enthusiastic and dynamic game has gone out of fashion. It is the very evolution of rugby that has prompted me to give up."

But, sadder still, was the suggestion that France had Trillo's inspiration, which was becoming increasingly evident last season, and chose not to take advantage of it. England, he

concludes, can impose their style on any match in which they dominate the ball as much as they did on Saturday, and must be "serious contenders for the title."

But other teams, he added, "are as capable, and offer speed and movement in their play. New Zealand and Australia are perfectly capable of beating England." The two teams, that is, who offer the variety which England have, so far, eschewed.

## Canada reap rewards

CANADA, who have enjoyed such a successful World Cup, have been offered a tour of France in the near future (David Hands writes). They have enjoyed their reception in Pool 4 and the experience of breaking into the stream containing rugby's big fish.

"What the World Cup has done is create a framework for countries like us to fit into," Mike Luke, their manager, said. "It has given us a measure of where we stand and an ideal four-year planning process. If

we are as good at this planning as we believe we are — and the result against New Zealand has shown we are not so bad at it — we will be thinking about 1995 in about a fortnight's time."

"That all 32 games should have been shown live in Canada is remarkable. We have received many messages from people showing that this has given us a forum from which to work."

Glenn Ennis and Norman Hadley, two of the Canadian forwards, have been offered the chance to play in Japan.

## FOOTBALL FORECAST

THE Scottish League tends to produce more unexpected results than its English counterpart. Teams lose at home one week, win away the next and vice versa. There is also a fair sprinkling of long-shot draws, and this week's coupon contains three such matches.

In the premier division, Aberdeen, who visit St Johnstone, would usually be considered to have an edge over their opponents from Perth, but the form of both sides has been so inconsistent that a draw cannot be ruled out. A similar argument applies in the second division where Queen's Park and Queen of the South are tipped to hold Arbroath and Brechin respec-

tively. However, the treble chance selection of Cowdenbeath (third) v Dumbarton (first) is based more on form.

In the English first division, Luton's away record is so bad that there is a feeling that the rot must stop soon. They could force a draw at Norwich, whose form resembles a yo-yo. Luton won last season's corresponding fixture 3-1. Wimbledon have won on their last three visits to Villa Park but Aston Villa's rapid rise suggests that a draw is a more likely result this time.

Torquay, who are propping up the third division, can draw for the first time this season, at home to Swansea, who are only two places above them.

## THIRD DIVISION

10 Burnley v Bradford City  
11 Bury v Bradford  
12 Crewe v Bolton  
13 Fulham v Preston  
14 Hull v Darlington  
15 Peterborough v Hartlepool  
16 Shrewsbury v Reading  
17 Southend v Millwall  
18 Torquay v Leyton  
19 West Brom v Birmingham  
20 Wigan v Gillingham  
Not on coupon: Huddersfield v Stockport (Friday)

## FOURTH DIVISION

1 Carlisle v Doncaster  
2 Carlisle v Grimsby  
3 Chesterfield v Hartlepool  
4 Gillingham v Northampton  
5 Lincoln v Burnley  
6 Rochdale v Huddersfield  
7 Scarbrough v Barnet  
8 Scarbrough v Barnet  
9 Scarbrough v Barnet  
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20 Scarbrough v Barnet  
Not on coupon: Rotherham v York (Friday)

## GM VALUABLE CONFERENCE

10 Burnley v Bradford City  
11 Bury v Bradford  
12 Crewe v Bolton  
13 Fulham v Preston  
14 Hull v Darlington  
15 Peterborough v Hartlepool  
16 Shrewsbury v Reading  
17 Southend v Millwall  
18 Torquay v Leyton  
19 West Brom v Birmingham  
20 Wigan v Gillingham  
Not on coupon: Huddersfield v Stockport (Friday)

## SKOL CUP FINAL

Not on coupon: Hibernian v Dumbarton (Sunday, at Hampden Park)

## SCOTTISH PREMIER

1 St Johnstone v Aberdeen  
2 St Mirren v Celtic  
3 Motherwell v Hearts  
4 Rangers v Falkirk  
Not on coupon: Motherwell v Hearts; Rangers v Falkirk

## SCOTTISH FIRST

1 Dundee v Motherwell  
2 Forfar v Hamilton  
3 Kilmarnock v Clydebank  
4 Kilmarnock v Clydebank  
5 Partick v Ayr  
6 Stirling v Raith  
Not on coupon: Stirling v Raith

## SCOTTISH SECOND

1 Albion v Stirling  
2 Albion v Stirling  
3 Albion v Stirling  
4 Albion v Stirling  
5 Albion v Stirling  
6 Albion v Stirling  
7 Albion v Stirling  
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20 Albion v Stirling  
Not on coupon: Stirling v Raith

## A would-be wing suffers an unanswered prayer

By HENRY KELLY

TWICE in my life I have watched the last five minutes of a rugby match on my knees. The first was 35 years ago, when a vindictive Jesuit at Belvedere took me, in a fit of pique for some alleged transgression, from my position of splendid and safe isolation on the left wing and placed me instead in what he called with a grin the "power-house" of the second row. From that position it was possible to see or hear the rest of the game from the kneeling, semi-recumbent or flat-on-your-face position. Lovely.

The second experience was Watching-Without-Mother-While-Kneeling took place on Sunday afternoon as, with five minutes to go, Ireland looked as if they would beat Australia in the quarter-final of the Rugby World Cup. My prayers were in vain. Like poor old Claudius in *Hamlet*, the words fly up!

The thoughts remain below/words without thoughts never to Heaven go. The Almighty must have been watching the World Match Play golf from Westminster on BBC2. On ITV, the thoughts remain below/words without thoughts never to Heaven go.

The Almighty must have been watching the World Match Play golf from Westminster on BBC2. On ITV, the thoughts remain below/words without thoughts never to Heaven go. The Almighty must have been watching the World Match Play golf from Westminster on BBC2. On ITV, the thoughts remain below/words without thoughts never to Heaven go.

over-used, it is an irritant. A request: why don't

## SPORT ON TELEVISION THE WEEK IN REVIEW

ber it as something which, coming so close and staying so far away, taught us all something about rugby football and sport in general. It was great fun and so, too, on a different level, was England's triumph against the French. Thank goodness, come what may, at Murrayfield next Saturday, we'll have a side to cheer for at Twickenham on November 2.

As I say, ITV continues to do the World Cup perfectly. It is dangerous, however, to give a tool to a television executive which he really doesn't need all the time. If he has it, he will use it. Thus with instant replays: not every move in a match is worth seeing from several angles just because you happen to have the gear handy to show it. Once or twice in their coverage the editors have shown us an instant replay, only for us to discover that while this was being broadcast the game was continuing and we, the viewers, were missing the live action. Controlled, the technique is brilliant; over-used, it is an irritant. A request: why don't

ITV and the rugby authorities go the whole hog and let the referees' microphones, which at the moment go only to the television commentators' earpieces, come into our television sets?

It was innovative to have the referees' messages passed to the galleries in the first place. What could be so wrong with letting the rest of us in on the action?

The microphones can easily be controlled, so social indiscretions or the threat of a Tony Lewinism would be minimal. And since all have been a great help to hear the explanations of the rules, I believe it would be a better idea to implement this small development. It is, after all, only a game.

Whisper it softly, but am I the only one who thinks that snooker on television is losing its appeal? Certainly over the weekend, maybe because the games themselves on the rugby pitches were so exciting and lively, the snooker looked very small and weak by

Maybe it was the juxtaposition, but then this can hardly be so since the golf, in which there is hardly any action, you'd call physical contact, held the attention, courtesy of the television channel-changer. What a delight to see Seve Ballesteros and Nick Faldo both behave as true sportsmen throughout the entire proceedings.

## BOXING

## Cook still in search of reward

By SRIKUMAR SEN BOXING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S last known champion, James Cook, defends his European super-middleweight title tonight. Whether he wins or loses, it will make little difference to his status. He will still be largely unknown to the British public.

Cook, skilful, brave and dedicated, has been boxing for nine years and has met the best British middleweights. He is one of the few to have beaten Michael Watson. Yet he is no nearer achieving financial security than the day he first started boxing professionally.

At 32, his main aim is to challenge for the world title and make enough money to buy his own place in Hackney. B. J. Eastwood, the promoter, has asked him back to Belfast to face the World Boxing Association champion, Victor Cordova. But typically, he decided to honour his commitment as European champion first and defend against a tough Finn, Tarmo Uusivirta, at the Lanchester leisure centre, Battersea.

Uusivirta, who is two years older than Cook, looked a good prospect when he started out in 1982. He worked under Angelo Dundee, but had to retire temporarily in 1988 because of a hand injury. Uusivirta has already out-pointed Cook, in October 1987, knocking him down in the process, but Cook is a wiser man these days.

## BASKETBALL

## Titmuss strives to earn his stripes

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

FIVE weeks before the start of the season, Thames Valley Tigers' Carlberg League plans lay in ruins. Jeff Jones, their new coach, had foot-rotted back to Manchester Giants and taken with him Brandt Johnson, his solitary signing.

Johnson, a former Wall Street banker, would have risked little on Tigers' chances of bringing together a worthy squad in time for the first division tip-off. Dale Roberts and Anthony Jenkins, their two Americans, Richard Scutcliffe, the England player, and Rodney Baker and Steve Panovics had also left. The guts of the team had gone.

"It was an absolutely crazy situation. I had to effectively start from scratch," Dave Titmuss, who was swiftly reinstated as coach, said. "I was getting in the office at 8am and leaving at 2am the next day. I was phoning all over the place. It was ridiculous."

During the summer, Titmuss had relinquished his part-time court-side duties for the "attractive package" of full-time general manager at the Bracknell-based club. "I then suddenly found myself thrust back into it," the former England coach said. It is a dual role he filled reluctantly and is still uneasy with.

"One minute I'm talking about a local promotion for the club, then I'm chatting with someone about team matters, then I'm negotiating with a Chinese restaurant about an

advertising board," he said. "Then I have to take training. It can't go on; it's something is bound to suffer."

Titmuss, who faces a daily 120-mile round trip from his home in Hemel Hempstead, admits he is happiest in a truck. "If we could find the right balance here, maybe it could work," he said. His paymasters are now investigating the options.

Away from his administrative chores, Titmuss has been assisted by a surprisingly strong squad, built on speed and athleticism rather than outright height. Tigers have won four of their five League games. Defeat against Kingston, the champions, was no disgrace.

Tigers toyed with Birmingham Bullies before cancelling a 111-87 victory on Saturday. Nigel Lloyd led the way with 35 at the head of the table after a 12-34 defeat at home to Worthing Bears. Despite 24 points from Lucius Sunderland, Salinas continue to prop up the rest, after respective defeats against Hemel and Leicester.

RESULTS: Mer. First division: Derby 70, Worthing Bears 62; Manchester 70, Keston 57; Huddersfield 77, London 111; Birmingham 87, Sunderland 57; Leicester 82, Chelms 75; 25 Women: First division: London 48, Sheffield 24; Nottingham 48, 25, 24; 27







## Sweet memories and sharp retorts from Sir Alf's squad of '66



By ANDREW LONGMORE

THE banter flowed as fast and as accurately as the ball on that dream-filled Saturday 25 years ago. Once a team always a team, as Ray Wilson said. Only Nobby and Greavie were missing. "Nobby's on his way. He got stuck in the fog in Manchester," explained Bob Wilson, chairman of the World Cup '66 committee. "He was just as late with his tackles," muttered Ray Wilson, removing his beloved pipe from his mouth for a moment. "It's not fog at all. His

glasses have steamed up," cried Armfield. No one quite knew about Greavie.

Those two apart, all 22 of the Boys — some a little thicker round the waist, others marginally thinner on top — came to town yesterday to celebrate the silver jubilee of the 1966 World Cup victory, to re-enact the post-match photo on the balcony of the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington and raise money for the Stars Organisation for Spastics. George Eastham and Terry Paine had

flown from South Africa for the occasion. Eastham, he of the sweet left foot and the gentle smile, runs two sports businesses in Johannesburg. Paine, looking as if he has just stepped out of Southampton's midfield, hair immaculate, is a coach at Wits University.

It was the first time the whole World Cup squad had been together since the final and each brought a treasured memory to the table. Big Jack falling to his knees, Bobby looking for his brother, Bally searching out his dad,

George being kissed on the cheek by Nobby. The whole nation has a memento of the day, though only the final 11 received medals. "To be honest, it wasn't until years later that we all realised how much it meant to people," Moore said.

Not all memories, though, are silver-lined. Ray Wilson still remembers the Germans' first goal as if it was yesterday. That diabolical header across his own area. "If you had picked someone to make a mistake he would have been the last person. It should

have been me," laughed George Cohen. Wilson, now a funeral director, agreed. "It was just a fourth division ball in. It was a bloody awful header. Criminal." And what about the equaliser, minutes from time?

"You know, the ball went over my leg by about six inches. If he'd have hit it on the floor I would have blocked it. But even after that blow, we were always in control of the match."

Wingless wonders or not, Sir Alf Ramsey had picked the team for

its spirit. "It was a group of players playing to the best of their ability and understanding," Sir Alf said yesterday. Understanding, the key word. "The England team against Turkey last week was a team of misunderstanding. It was a mistake by the manager."

Trenchant to the end. "You can imagine what happened if we had a bad game," Armfield added. "But then that was it," chimed in Cohen. "Look at the players who couldn't get into our team. Ron Flowers, George Eastham,

Jimmy Greaves, Jimmy Armfield." And, George, that night at the Royal Garden Hotel 25 years ago. That must have been some night? "To be honest, I was too damn tired to enjoy it," Greaves, incidentally, did not make that occasion either.

ENGLAND'S 1966 WORLD CUP SQUAD: Jimmy Armfield, Alan Ball, Gordon Banks, Peter Burroughs, Gerry Byrne, Ian Callaghan, Bobby Charlton, Jack Charlton, George Cohen, John Connelley, George Eastham, Ron Flowers, Jimmy Greaves, Roger Hunt, Norman Hunter, Geoff Hurst, Bobby Moore, Terry Paine, Martin Peters, Ron Stanger, Nobby Stiles, Ray Wilson, Martin Wright. Sir Alf Ramsey, Trainer. Leeds Shepherdson.

Dispute over Dubroca altercation continues to simmer

## Fitzgerald to referee England's semi-final

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

KERRY Fitzgerald, who refereed the inaugural World Cup final between New Zealand and France four years ago, will handle the revival on Saturday of the oldest international rugby fixture when Scotland play England in the World Cup semi-finals at Murrayfield.

Fitzgerald, a bank official from Brisbane, will have as one of his touch judges David Bishop, the New Zealander who became so unwillingly the centre of controversy in Paris on Saturday after England had beaten France, and whose treatment there will have been debated with some heat by the panel of assessors who make the World Cup refereeing appointments.



A southern-hemisphere referee having been awarded the northern-hemisphere semi-final, the reverse applies to the second semi-final in Dublin on Sunday, between Australia and New Zealand. Jim Fleming, the Scot who took charge of the opening game of the tournament, between England and New Zealand, and who sent off Pedro Sporleder and Mata'afa Keanan during the

pool game between Argentina and Western Samoa, will handle the match.

The appointments' panel will also have discussed the third-place play-off and the final, and though no announcement can be made until after this weekend, it looks increasingly as though Derek Bevan, of Wales, and Fred Howard, of England, are the leading candidates to take charge of the final.

England have seldom been overjoyed when southern-hemisphere referees have handled their games in the five nations' championship. Their last view of Fitzgerald was in the Cardiff rain in March 1989, when he awarded Mike Hall a controversial try and Wales won 12-9. However, they may have amended their views after Saturday.

They were familiar with the demands Bishop was likely to make on them at the Parc des Princes and they know Fitzgerald well enough. He first refereed England in New Zealand in 1985, which was a painful experience, literally, for the touring team, who lost 42-15 in a violent encounter. He officiated in their pool game with the United States in the 1987 World Cup, when he also controlled the semi-final between New Zealand and Wales (a match in which Huw Richards, the Welsh lock, was sent off), as well as the final.

Fitzgerald also sent off a player in 1988, when England beat Fiji in Suva. Since then, he has also handled the 1989 game between the British Isles and an Anzac XV.

In the meantime, the debate over Rugby World Cup's (RWC) decision — or lack of it — regarding the Dubroca-Bishop affair is simmering gently. Though they would not say so publicly, members of the refereeing panel are angry

that no action is to be taken over the abuse offered Bishop by the French coach in the players' tunnel in Paris.

Bishop's version of events was given to Peter Brook, the chairman of the appointments' panel, after the game, and were then relayed to Ray Williams, the tournament organiser. No other version has been offered for public consumption other than that supplied by eye-witnesses on Saturday evening, but referees everywhere, and particularly those who may be offered exchange matches in France, will be offended by RWC's inaction.

The excuse may be that no official complaint has been made by Bishop, a referee of wide experience (but not, until last weekend, of being grabbed by his shirt by a national team coach and called a cheat), but that should not matter. If what happened is as well substantiated as it appears to be, the least the tournament organisers should have done is to invite the French federation to take some form of disciplinary action, and to say so publicly so that referees everywhere will feel that, if they are ever in a similar situation, they will receive the official support to which they are entitled.

The former English international referee, Roger Quinlenton, described the decision to take no action as a great shame. "It puts at risk everything the game of rugby stands for," he said. "It now means that any player can feel free to jostle the referee and call him a cheat."

APPOINTMENTS: Scotland v England: Referee: R. Fitzgerald (Ireland). Touch judges: D. Bishop and K. Lawrence (both NZ). Reserve referees: O. Doyle (Ireland) and J. New Zealand: Referee: J. Fleming (Scotland). Touch judges: S. Hudson (Ireland) and E. Mervin (Ireland). Reserve referees: S. Anderson (Scotland).

Kirk's assessment, page 36  
French press reaction, page 36

## England's extra tickets go quickly

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND'S success in reaching the World Cup semi-finals has meant the availability of 5,000 additional tickets for Saturday's game against Scotland at Murrayfield, all of which have been disposed of instantly.

Twickenham was besieged with enquiries yesterday, but by then all the tickets had been allocated. "About a month ago, clubs were advised what their allocation would be for Murrayfield, provided England reached the semi-finals," Richard Ankeron, the RFU ticket manager, said.

The Scottish Rugby Union may offer for sale tomorrow some returns, but no more tickets will be available to the RFU. Should England reach the final at Twickenham on November 2, a further 1,000 tickets will become available.

England, who arrived in Edinburgh on Sunday night, will wait until tomorrow before naming their side to face Scotland. Geoff Cooke, the England manager, said: "We shall consider Scotland's strengths and weaknesses and then decide if there are to be any alterations." All 26 players will be available.

Meanwhile, the Australian wing, David Campese, has received better news on his injured ankle after a precautionary bone scan at a Dublin hospital yesterday showed no crack. Campese had feared the injury was a stress fracture.

Campese reported the ankle as still sore but said he would train with the rest of the squad this morning. The Australians went golfing at Portmarnock yesterday and Campese said: "When we watched the video of the match this morning I think some of the guys felt we were going to lose the game after all."

## Harrison dismissed by Millwall after prank

By LOUISE TAYLOR

STEVE Harrison's future as England coach was uncertain last night after his dismissal from the same role with the first team at Millwall for "personal conduct unacceptable to the club".

Bruce Rioch, the Millwall manager, last night said he had: "no comment" to make about Harrison's departure, Graham Horrip, chief executive at the second division club, said the decision was due to "personal conduct unacceptable to the club. The decision to terminate Harrison's employment as first team coach at Millwall football club was taken over the weekend."

It is understood Harrison's sacking was prompted by an incident which occurred on Friday evening in the Ipswich hotel where the Millwall squad stayed before the team's 0-0 draw at Portman Road on Saturday.

Although staff at the hotel were "unaware" of any disturbance on Friday, it is believed that Harrison, renowned as a practical joker, pulled one prank too many. Last night he was staying with relatives and unaccompanied.

Harrison's reputation for sometimes outrageous jokes were recognised as a recipe for

success on the training field and resulted in Graham Taylor recruiting Harrison as coach when he succeeded Bobby Robson as England manager after the 1990 World Cup finals.

Taylor had signed Harrison, then a full-back, for Watford from Blackpool in 1978 and the player moved on to Charlton before returning to work under Taylor as youth team coach at Vicarage Road.

When Taylor moved to Aston Villa, Harrison went with him as his No. 2. However, Harrison returned to Watford as manager after the departure of Dave Bassett but

found he preferred concentrating on coaching to the administrative side and soon parted company with Watford, joining Millwall as first team coach at the start of the 1990-1 season after a brief period of unemployment.

He quickly established himself as extremely popular with both the Millwall and England players, rivaling Paul Gascoigne as the joker in the pack at international level. At Millwall, Harrison's laid-back approach was regarded as a clever contrast to the respect commanded by Rioch, who is renowned as a strict disciplinarian.

As Millwall reached the semi-finals of the second division promotion play-offs last season — where they lost to Brighton — the blend appeared to be working, but they now lie in the middle of the table and have struggled to make an immediate impact on the promotion race.

Harrison, who had 18 months of his contract at Millwall to run, is understood to have enjoyed a better relationship with Taylor than Rioch. He was last in charge of coaching England last Wednesday, for the European championship match against Turkey.



Harrison: joker

## Clubs set unwelcome first

TRANMERE Rovers and Grimsby Town will make football history on Monday when they become the first second division clubs to be involved in the first round of the FA Cup.

The clubs have been included in the draw for the first round because of the expansion of the League. The first division went back to having 22 clubs this season,

leaving 24 in the second. Two of those are being added to the third and fourth division clubs and the survivors from the qualifying rounds for the first round of the FA Cup.

"Grimsby went up in third place last season and Tranmere won the play-off place at Wembley," a spokesman for the FA said yesterday. "They were the last two clubs promoted to the second division and they will be in the first round draw."

League premier division side, will also be included in the first-round draw after their spectacular run last season, which saw them win at West Bromwich Albion, then in the second division, before going out at Everton in the fourth round.

Other non-League clubs included in the first round are last season's FA Trophy finalists, Kidderminster and Wycombe.

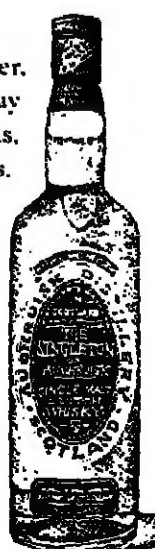
Woking, the Diadora  
Trophy draw, page 37

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THE SINGLETON,  
THE JUDGES  
WERE SINGING  
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SINGLETON  
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## ICC prepares to welcome back South Africa

By RICHARD STREETON

AFTER clear guidance in favour of links with South Africa from the Commonwealth heads of government conference in Harare, the International Cricket Council (ICC) looks certain to agree at its special meeting in Sharjah tomorrow that South Africa should play in the World Cup in Australasia next year.

West Indies continue to hint that they might abstain from voting, but Pakistan, the only other Test-playing country to have expressed reservations openly, changed their attitude during the weekend.

Pakistan now join the other six Test-playing countries which can all be expected to support South Africa's participation. Under ICC voting procedures, the unanimous approval of full members will

settle the matter without the associate member countries having to vote. Should West Indies, the eighth full member, abstain, it would not rank as a vote against.

Colin Cowdrey, the ICC chairman, who leaves for Sharjah today, agreed that the Commonwealth conference had "clearly marked the ICC's card". In addition to the message in last night's closing communiqué from Harare, the cricket-loving prime ministers of Australia and England, Bob Hawke — who played for the Authentics while at Oxford University in the 1950s — and John Major, are known to have lobbied intensively for South African participation in the World Cup.

Coupled with the backing of Nelson Mandela, the African

National Congress president, a controversial issue that at worst might have split the ICC has effectively been settled for the game's administrators. Everything points, therefore, after 21 years in the wilderness, to South Africa returning to official international competition in the World Cup between February 22 and March 25.

The decision tomorrow will be an emotional moment for Dr Ali Bacher, the managing director of the newly-formed United Cricket Board of South Africa. Bacher was the South African captain when they beat Australia 4-0 in 1970 in their last Test series before the world ostracised them. Since then, he has worked ceaselessly as an administrator for multi-racial cricket to enable South Africa to return.

Before returning home from Sharjah, the four-man South African delegation will go on to India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — places no South African cricket officials have visited — to establish the new contacts now open to them.

Even before the Harare communiqué details were known, General Zia-ul-Haq, the Pakistan board president, confirmed from Lahore that he would support South Africa. "Enough has emerged from Zimbabwe in recent days to convince me that there was no longer any reason to oppose South Africa in this matter," he said. He planned talks with ICC delegates in Sharjah today to try to ensure unanimous agreement.

The only matter of dispute likely on the ICC agenda tomorrow is the revised

World Cup programme. Next Monday, the organisers will announce the amended fixtures, with the eight matches involving South Africa slotted in. Inevitably, it will mean less time between some games at the widely spread venues, and England and Zimbabwe are objecting to initial drafts of the proposed changes.

Meanwhile, India and Sri Lanka, who, like Pakistan, insisted on a special ICC meeting being called, still say they wish to hear the ICC debate before committing themselves.

These two countries proposed and seconded South Africa for readmission at the ICC last July. Their cricket boards, like Pakistan's, are headed by a government minister. It is inconceivable that they would now take a uni-

lateral stand contrary to their prime ministers' views.

Australia and New Zealand, the hosts, have always supported South Africa's request last month to compete. England, too, will be in favour, and South Africa will obviously vote for itself. West Indies abstained when South Africa were readmitted to the ICC in July and their attitude might remain indecisive. With six member boards and 13 separate Caribbean governments in the background, they have administrative problems that other Test countries are spared when matters have to be resolved at short notice.

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